TERROR IN TUPELO

WCW World Championship Wrestling™

The Official Monthly Magazine of World Championship Wrestling
Issue 4 June 1995

Re-live all of the action from WCW UnCensored

STING Demands: "HOGAN, GIVE ME A TITLE SHOT!"

"STAY IN JAPAN!"

HARLEM HEAT WARN THE STEINERS

Featuring The Nasty Boys, Blue Bloods & Sgt. Pittman

Color pin-ups of Macho Man, Alex Wright & Meng

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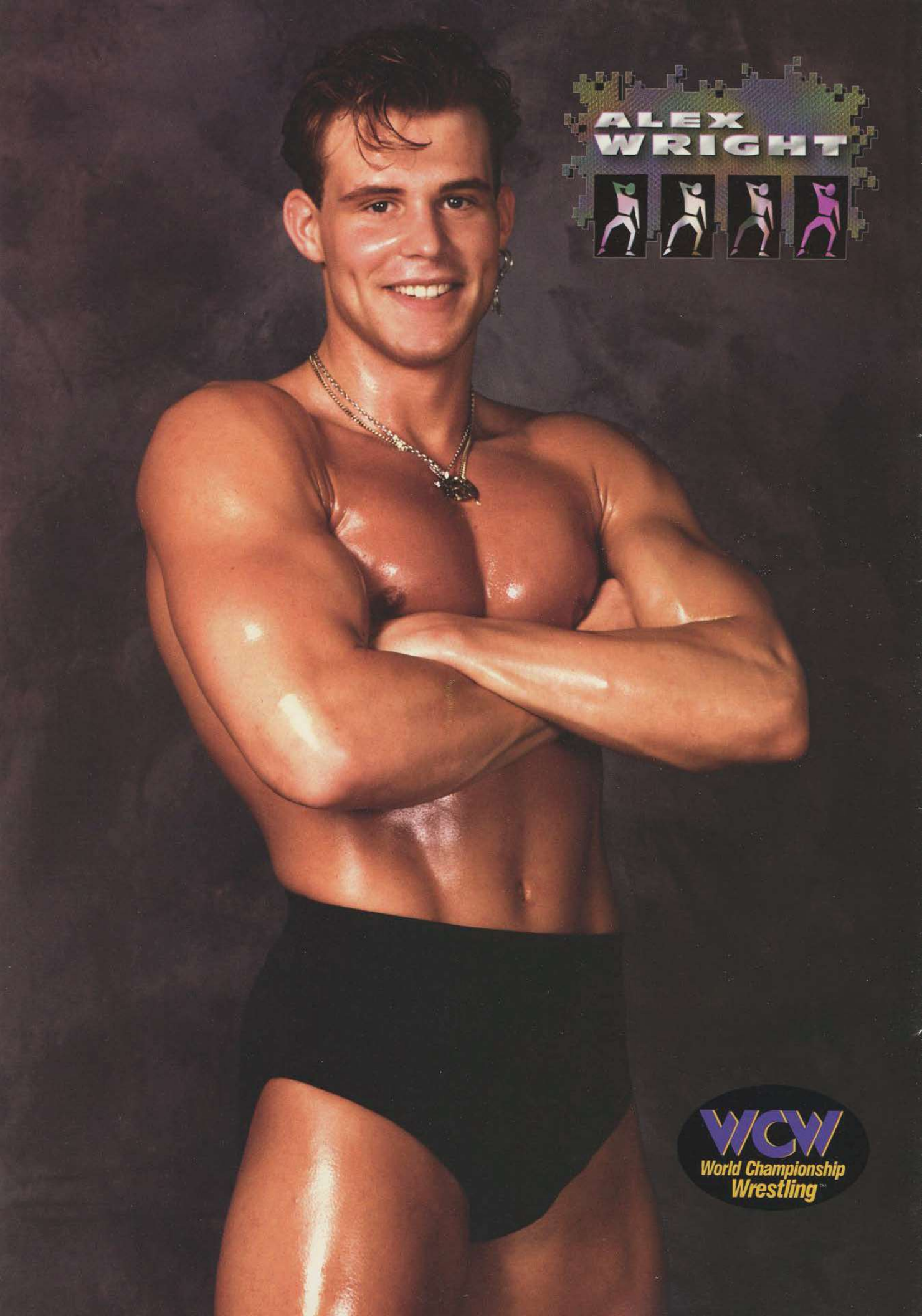
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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PENDING

Editor's Note

I think Bob Dylan summed it up best when he sang, "The times, they are a changing...". Times are definitely changing in WCW. RIC FLAIR, FOR BETTER OR WORSE IS BACK? His fans had certainly been very vocal about his departure and, I await with interest their comments about his return. One thing they will have to consider is the debt of thanks they now owe to Hulk Hogan. If the Hulkster hadn't pleaded for Flair's return, Flair could have been destined to appear in the main event at your local sanitarium! Next month in this magazine we will have the definitive interview with the "Nature Boy" and hopefully we will learn of his upcoming game plans.

As if Flair's return wasn't enough, we bring you coverage of even more changes within WCW. This month you get the VERY FIRST look at the newest formation in the WCW tag team ranks...The Blue Bloods. You also get to meet WCW's "rising star" and my big tip for the future, Sgt. Craig Pittman.

Several special features in this issue include an examination of Harlem Heat's greatness and we put Sting "In the Hotseat". With our extended coverage of "Uncensored," this magazine is jammed-packed with the kind of hard-hitting articles, I know that you are going to enjoy.

Finally keeping on the subject of change. WCW is receiving more mainstream media coverage than ever before. Even the prestigious LIFE magazine ran an article about

WCW's professional wrestling school in it's April 1995 issue! So stick with WCW...we're really going places.

Enjoy the magazine and write to me soon at our postal address or via E-Mail at: WCWMAG@cix.compulink.co.uk and I'll be back next month

Colin Bowman
Editor

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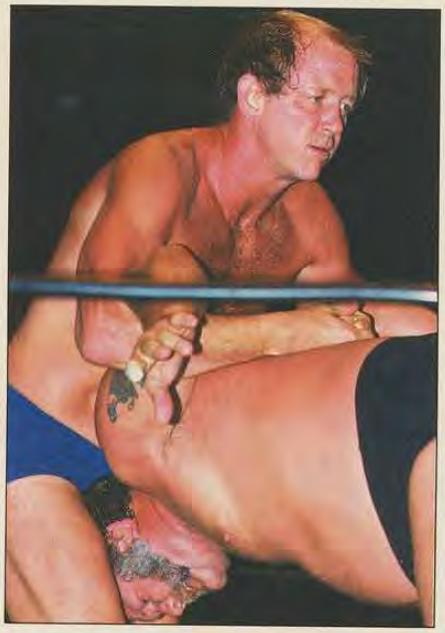


WCW's Slamboree will take place on May 21st 1995 at 7pm ET, from The Bayfront Center, St Petersburg, FL. The line-up for this show has just been released to us and it promises to be a most exciting event. The main event will feature four of the greatest wrestlers of all time. The Monster Maniacs, Hulk Hogan and "Macho Man" Randy Savage, will face the newly re-instated Ric Flair and former US Champion Vader in a previously unmatched tag team encounter. Two of the top titles in WCW will also be defended on this card. World Television Champion Arn Anderson is once again put to the test by Germany's dynamic "Das Wunderkind," Alex Wright while Harlem Heat will have to be at their very best to prevent The Nasty Boys from completing their Three-Peat. As if this wasn't enough Sting will face his conqueror from Uncensored, Big Bubba Rogers, in a "Lights Out Match" and "Krazy" Kevin Sullivan will get the chance to back up his threats against former "Face of Fear" Butcher. There will be the traditional Legends match, featuring former NWA World Heavyweight Champion Dory Funk Jr. in a collision with former 5-time US Champion, Native American, Wahoo McDaniel. And, as a special bonus New Japan's Great Muta will collide with "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff in this, the first match under the new trade agreement between the two organizations. Of course WCW will also be inducting this year's five entrants to the WCW Hall of Fame will be Dusty Rhodes, former: Three-time World Heavyweight Champion; three-time World Television Champion; World Tag Team Champion; US Champion and two-time World Six Man Champion. Wahoo McDaniel, former: Three-time World Tag Team Champion and five-time US Champion. Antonio Inoki, the Japanese legend who is a former: Two-time IWGP Champion; two-time Asian Tag Team Champion; United National Champion; four-time NWA International Tag Team Champion; three-time National Wrestling Champion and two-time North American Tag Team Champion. Dory Funk Jr who held the World Heavyweight Championship from February 1969 until May 1973 and legendary 1950's mat legend Angelo Poffo who is also the father of "Macho Man" Randy Savage.

Other legends who are scheduled to attend the event are Johnny Valentine, Paul Jones, Magnum T.A., Pedro Morales, Don Curtis, Hiro Matsuda, Buddy Colt, Ox Baker, Tommy Young and The Assassin.

Tickets for this event are set to sell-out very quickly so contact your local Ticketmaster outlet as soon as possible.

However, do not despair as you can still experience all of the excitement from the best seats in the house, your own, by contacting your local cable operator and purchasing the show on Pay-Per-View. Slamboree-The Legends Reunion.

Don't miss it...this will be the event of a lifetime!

WCW EVENT NEWS

Here are the dates of WCW's upcoming major events:

May 21 1995 **Slamboree**
June 18 1995 **Great American Bash**
July 16 1995 **Bash at the Beach**
August 17 1995 **Clash of the Champions**
September 17 1995 **Fall Brawl**
October 29 1995 **Halloween Havoc**
December 27 1995 **Starrcade**

VADER STRIPPED OF US TITLE

Vader finally tested the patience of the WCW Board of Directors to its limit. Having seen him ridicule every fine they levied against him, spokesman and WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel, announced in late-March that WCW had stripped Vader of the US Championship in retaliation for the heinous and violent attacks the behemoth had recently been responsible for. They also warned him as to his future conduct, with the next step being a possible suspension or life-time ban from competing in WCW. Vader was unavailable for comment.

FLAIR IS BACK

Following Flair's crazed activities at WCW Uncensored, Hulk Hogan, Jimmy Hart and "Macho Man" Randy Savage met with the WCW Executive Committee. They begged that Flair be re-instated in the USA, so that he could be held accountable for his actions. The Committee considered the matter thoroughly and, after several votes which ended inconclusively, they finally reached the decision that Flair could return to face The Monster Maniacs at Slamboree.

ON THE MEND

Dave Sullivan is making a satisfactory recovery from the concussion he received from the cowardly and unprovoked attack by Ric Flair and Vader at Center Stage. As you can see Dave is being cheered up by all of the gifts and goodwill messages which were sent in by his fans. While we were there Dave received a call from his big hero, The Hulkster, who told him to "Stay Strong!" Dave has asked us to thank all of you for your support and he promises that he will be back in action before too long.

Honored

Prior to the Uncensored PPV, Hulk Hogan was honored, when the people of Tupelo presented him with the key to their City. The award was in recognition of "the biggest event to take place in Tupelo since the birth of Elvis."

BIRTHDAY CORNER

Birthdays this month include:

May 14 **Vader** *May 14* **Col. Parker**
May 14 **Tommy Rogers** *May 17* **Alex Wright**
May 22 **Flyin' Brian**

TAG Talk

In the USA or Canada, write to:
Tag Talk, WCW Magazine, One CNN Center, Box No.105366, Atlanta, GA30348-5366

In the UK or Ireland, write to:
Tag Talk, WCW Magazine, 5A Brighton House, 9 Brighton Terrace, London SW9 8DJ

or send your comments to us via E-Mail.Our address is **WCWMAG@cix.compulink.co.uk**

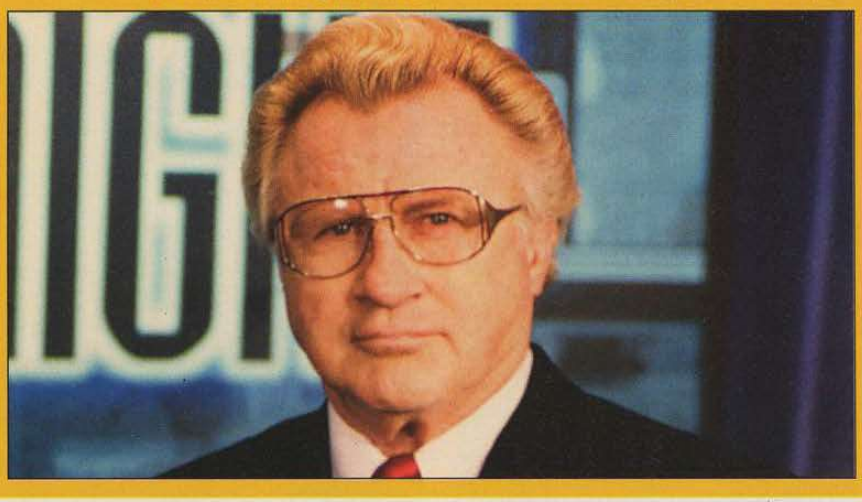
COUNTERPOINTS

I disagree with Kevin King's comments in Issue 1 about Alex Wright. He must remember that once in a while a genuine superstar emerges and Alex Wright certainly fits the bill. He is in my opinion ranked in WCW's top 15 and is certainly someone that I want to see in action as often as possible.

P Ransom, Bury, Lancs.

In Issue 1, Mr. Conger said that Nick Bockwinkel should be fired as WCW Commissioner. This is garbage. Mr Bockwinkel is a fine, honorable man who takes care of business in an efficient manner (except for the suspension of Ric Flair.) Keep up the good work.

D Lowther, Uniontown, PA



TALKING PROPER

I enjoy reading the new WCW magazine. However I cried laughing when I read the Collision Course article with Harlem Heat. Those guys don't talk the way you wrote the article, so come on print it the way they say it.

Melvin L Clermont, Orlando, FL

There will always be the problem between the spoken and written word. There is generally only one accepted way to spell certain words (allowing for US/UK differences) but several ways of saying them. In order to make sure all interviews are fully understood we have to print them using the correct spellings which of course doesn't do justice to the various regional dialects. Use your imagination more as you read and you will be able to hear each interview exactly as it was spoken.

Confused

I watch WCW on satellite via the DSF channel. However, as it is broadcast in German it can be confusing. Can you clear up exactly who the TV Champion is? Randy Savage beat Arn Anderson but then Arn defended it the following week against Johnny B. Badd.

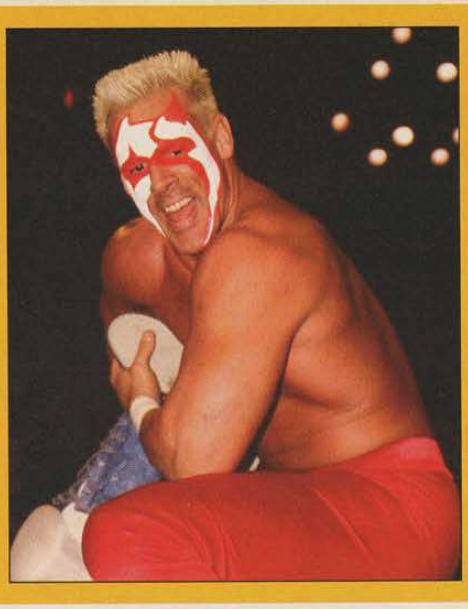
Trudy Purvis, Northumberland

This is an easy one to clear up. At the time of your letter Arn Anderson was still the TV Champion despite the defeat to Randy Savage. TV Championship matches sometimes have time stipulations attached to them and in this case the title was only up for grabs during the first 10-minutes. As I recall Savage won in 15-minutes.

THINK AGAIN STING

Sting, before Hulk Hogan entered WCW you were always the No.1 contender. Now you are barely in the top 10. If I were you I would turn on Hogan. look what it did for Butcher. He got an instant title shot. Vader pushed Hogan. he got a title shot. Think, think, think! If you want to be number one again you must get a title shot soon.

Justin Grossman, Brooklyn, NY



STING I LOVE YOU

Sting is the best wrestler I've ever seen. He is also a wonderful person and he really cares about his fans. He is a true role model. Sting, if you are reading this, I love you.

Jennifer Lanier, W-S, NC

HALL OF FAME

With Slamboree just around the corner, can you tell me who has been inducted into WCW's Hall of Fame so far?

RM Charley, Greensburg, PA

Ok, in no particular order: Lou Thesz, Verne Gagne, Eddie Graham, Harley Race, Mr Wrestling II, Assassin, Crusher, Dick the Bruiser, Ernie Ladd and Ole Anderson.

Even balance

I like the big format of the new magazine. I'm also impressed by the wide coverage it offers. I have one suggestion, why not put in more full page posters and make some of them action? The general standard of photography is awesome.

J Smith, Winnipeg, Manitoba

I think we strike quite a happy medium between posters and editorial at the moment. However, the magazine is produced with you in mind so let me know if you do want more posters.

Where are they now?

Would it be possible for you to run a regular feature on the whereabouts of some of the wrestlers who are no longer in WCW. You could let us know what career they followed after wrestling and some details about their families. I am sure it would be a very popular piece.

T Laske, Coatesville, IN

We have considered this idea in the past but it is very hard to keep track of people, especially the stars of yesteryear. I will mention your suggestion to Gordon Solie. If he knows what became of the subject, I'll get him to let you know.

Thumbs down

I think Ric Flair's return to WCW is the best thing to happen since Sister Sherri entered the federation. His current pairing with Vader is a masterstroke. These two men make the perfect team. Although they have had their differences in the past, their great forces will finally put an end to Hulkamania. I hope Hogan gets everything he deserves. Since Flair lost the retirement match at Halloween Havoc the sport hasn't been the same and when he is back it's just going to get better and better. Long live Ric Flair! Whooo!

Jeff Burns, Glendale Heights

Thumbs down

Thumbs down to Bobby Heenan. His bad mouthing of Hulk Hogan is old news. He should find some interesting and original topics or just hang up his announcing hat forever.

John Hanselman, Centerville, GA

Ticket information

How can I get tickets for WCW's TV tapings at Center Stage and Disney MGM. We are planning trips to Atlanta and Orlando soon, so can you please print this information?

L Adkins, Kansas City, MO

Tickets to WCW tapings at the Disney MGM Studios are distributed by the studio on the day of each event. They are handed out on a first-come, first-served basis. For more specific information, contact Disney MGM Studios at (407) 824-4321.

Tickets to WCW tapings in Atlanta are distributed approximately 1 - 2 weeks before each event at local Atlanta NTW Tire stores. On the day of each taping, you can also receive tickets at the Center Stage Box Office but you must arrive early as quantities are very limited. As a last resort you can write to Tate Nurkin at our Atlanta address. Please give Tate 4 to 6 weeks advance notice of your request. We will try to accommodate our fans in any possible way but seats are very limited and may not be available for your specific date!

It was wild...It was unbridled, unrestricted, and unbelievable! It was...WCW Uncensored!

There have been wild and wooly WCW events in the past but never anything to match the sheer insanity that took place at WCW Uncensored! Just check out this exclusive blow-by-blow account of the event and feel all of the incredible action

WCW UnCensored

When it was announced that the brand-new Tupelo Coliseum had agreed to host the first-ever WCW Uncensored event, WCW's Board of Directors cringed en masse. After all, with so many violent feuds in full swing–Hulk Hogan vs. Vader, Arn Anderson vs. Johnny Badd, Sting vs. Big Bubba and the list goes on–the potential for serious injuries seemed certain. Begrudgingly, WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel allowed the event to go on as scheduled but with a twist. All the wrestlers were competing at their own risk and no titles were on the line. However, with so many men at each other's throats, it seemed this would be the only way that some of these vicious feuds would come to a conclusion. That's exactly what happened but along the way several shocking incidents took place. Join us now, your ONLY source for in-depth coverage from this unprecedented event!

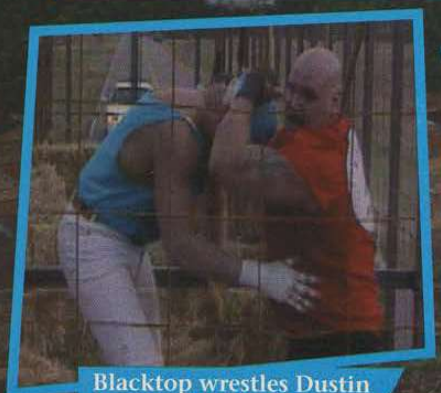
King Of The Road Match

BLACKTOP BULLY vs. DUSTIN RHODES

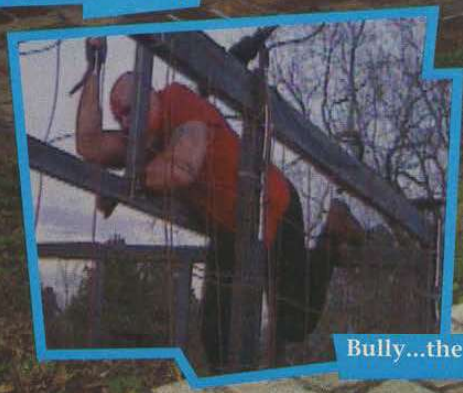
You couldn't, in any way, term this as a wrestling match. It was more like a four-lane free-for-all! "The Natural" and Col. Parker's favorite scofflaw engaged in a brutal brawl in the back of an 18-wheel open-caged truck, loaded with everything from Mississippi mud to an array of dangerous tools! How these men even kept their balance in a truck speeding down a highway at 55-miles per hour, let alone wrestle, was a miracle in itself. It wasn't easy for either competitor as they brawled dangerously all through the truck, bashing each other with bales of hay, huge pails of water and even fence posts! After minutes of intense anarchy they both reached for the horn at the top of the truck, as the man who could sound it off would be declared the winner. It appeared Dustin was going to be the man to blow the horn but an eye gouge by Bully sent him flying to the truck floor. This left Bully to blow the horn, signalling a victory that the Tupelo fans could scarcely believe!

The truck sped down the highway

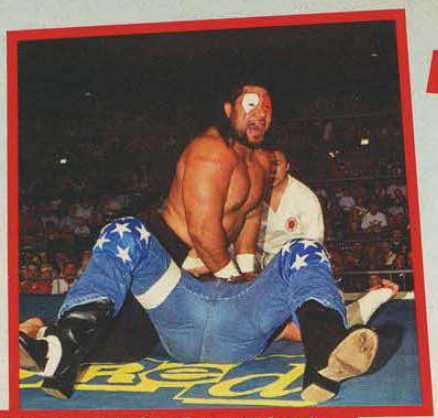
Dustin hits Bully with a bale of hay



Blacktop wrestles Dustin back to the floor



Bully...the winner



Meng went for the quick win

A ferocious elbow floors Duggan

The nerve clamp wears down America's hero

MENG vs. "HACKSAW" JIM DUGGAN

The popular "Hacksaw" wanted revenge on Meng for his cowardly and brutal post-match attack at SuperBrawl V. Through much of this match, it appeared Duggan would batter Col. Parker's martial arts expert and get the job done. However, the special referee imported from Japan, former karate champion Sonny Onoo, proved to be a major distraction for Duggan. At the start of the match Onoo implored Duggan to bow to his opponent (a traditional karate custom) and when Duggan finally agreed, Meng blasted him in the face with a kick that went completely unpunished by the referee! While Meng tried to cripple Duggan with high-impact karate and other martial arts moves, Duggan retaliated with good old-fashioned brawling. The flag-waving fan favorite actually blasted Meng with his trademark finisher, the three-point clothesline but Meng immediately got up as if he was completely unscathed! Duggan missed this action as he brawled with Col. Parker, who was interfering on the apron. As Onoo tried to get Duggan off of Parker, Meng took the opportunity to blast Duggan with a vicious side kick and scored the first major victory of his WCW career.

Duggan sucker kicks Meng

The Three-Point Clothesline was ineffective

Meng cuts Duggan down with a side kick

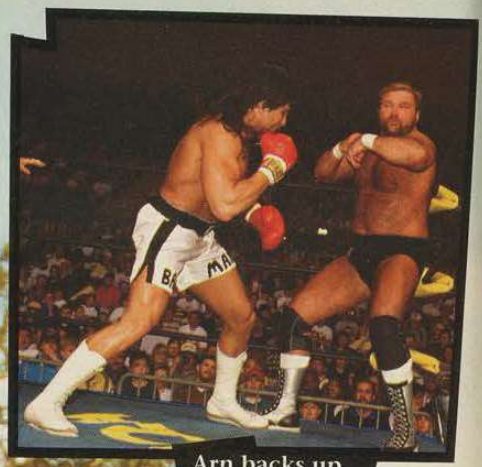
WCW UnCensored

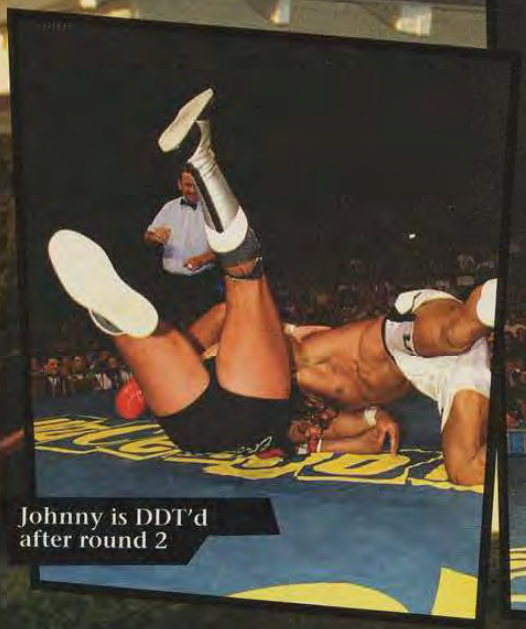
Boxer vs. Wrestler

JOHNNY B. BADD vs. ARN ANDERSON

Forget Muhammad Ali vs. Antonio Inoki! This hard-fought match between "The Enforcer," the World TV Champion and Johnny B. Badd ranks as the greatest boxer vs. wrestler confrontation in the history of the sport. To win this match, Anderson had to score a pinfall or a submission, while Badd had to win via 10-count. The bout was contested in three-minute rounds but after Anderson had been battered by Badd's incredible pugilistic skills, Arn threw the rulebook out of the window and started brawling. Between the second and third rounds, Anderson DDT'd Badd and it looked like Johnny would soon be headed for the locker room. Badd's longtime boxing trainer, Roc Finnegan could take no more. He was so angry that he hurled his diminutive frame on to the back of a startled Anderson! Between the third and fourth rounds, Finnegan finally cut the tape off Badd's left glove and the brawl again commenced. As Badd backed Anderson into a corner, Finnegan threw the ringside bucket over Anderson's head, allowing Badd to blast Arn with a wicked left, knocking the pail off Anderson's head. The "Tutti Fruitti" then kayoed Anderson as Badd scored one of his most thrilling WCW victories. Can Johnny now go on to regain Anderson's TV title?

Roc Finnegan prepares Johnny


Arn backs up


Johnny is DDT'd after round 2

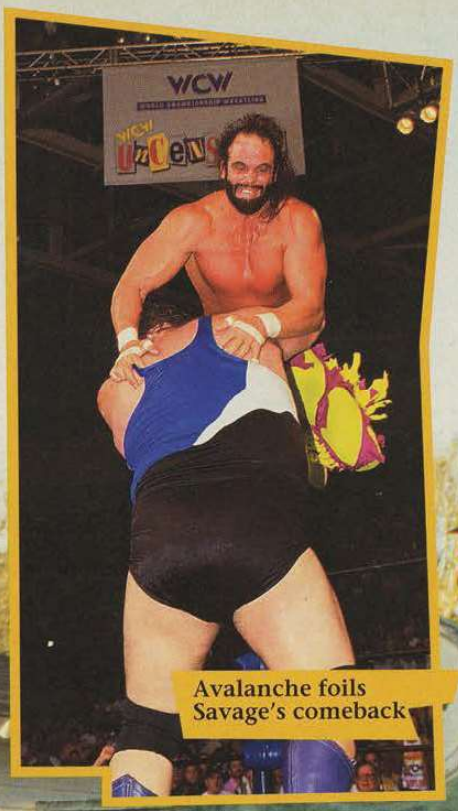
Anderson reels under Badd's attack

Zzzzzzzzzzzzz!

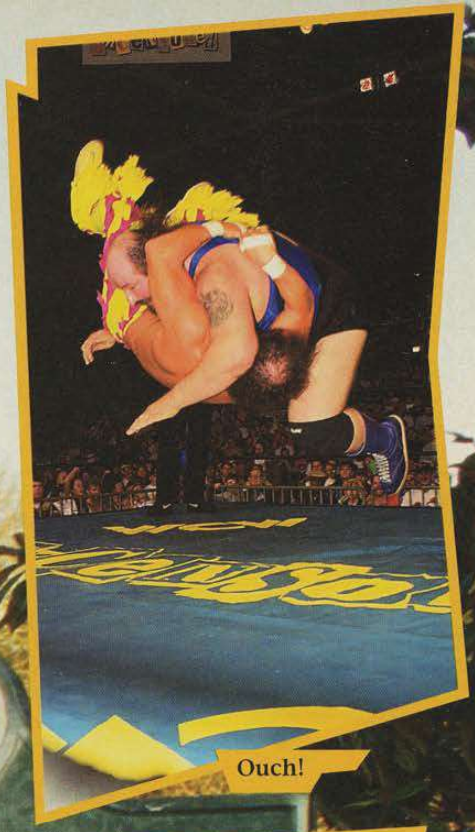
Arn looks a little pail

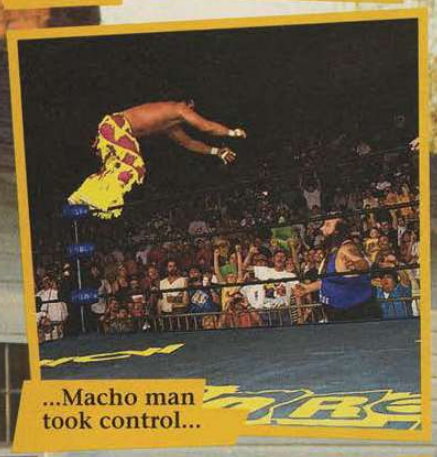
Finnegan can no longer stand by

Early in the match...



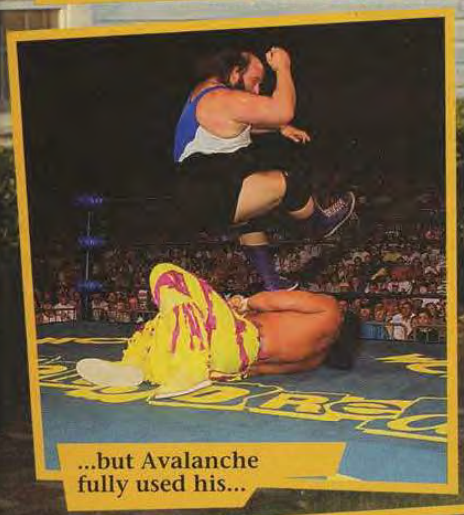
Avalanche foils Savage's comeback


Ouch!

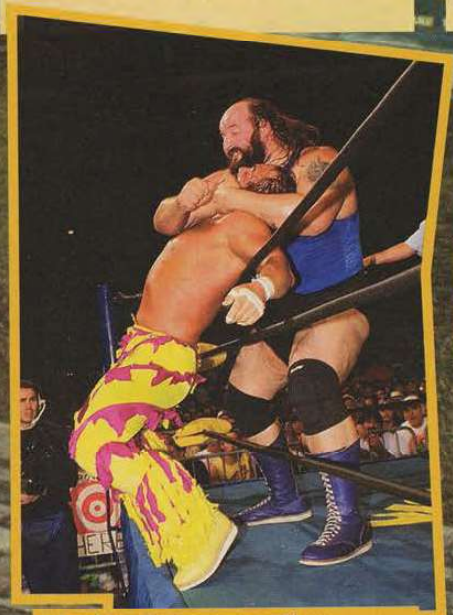

...Macho man took control...

RANDY SAVAGE vs. AVALANCHE

Early on, the "Macho Man" was just that, shocking his 517-pound foe with a flying crossbody block from the top turnbuckle to the arena floor! Savage was as intense and fired-up as ever but Avalanche greatly used his weight advantage, crushing Randy with arm and elbow drops. Later, as Savage scored with his famed double-axehandle to the arena floor, Randy seemed almost assured of victory. That's when a brunette haired woman ran to ringside and began attacking Savage. However, THAT WAS NO LADY! It was a crazed Ric Flair, willing to do anything it took to get at Savage, Hulk Hogan and Sting. Flair and Avalanche brutally double-teamed Savage until Hogan ran to the ring to end the carnage. Savage was declared the winner by disqualification but he wasn't satisfied. He's now joining with Hogan to try and get rid of the "Nature Boy" once and for all!


...but Avalanche fully used his...

...huge weight advantage


Avalanche was merciless

THAT WAS NO LADY!

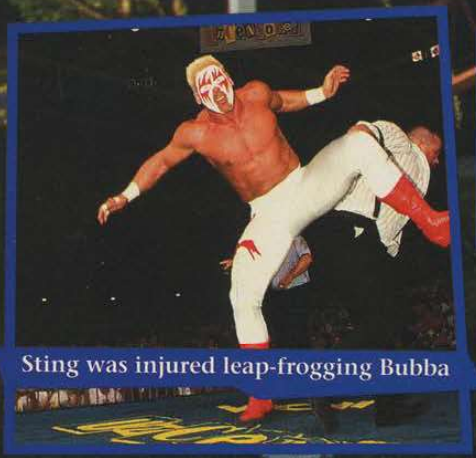
WCW UnCensored

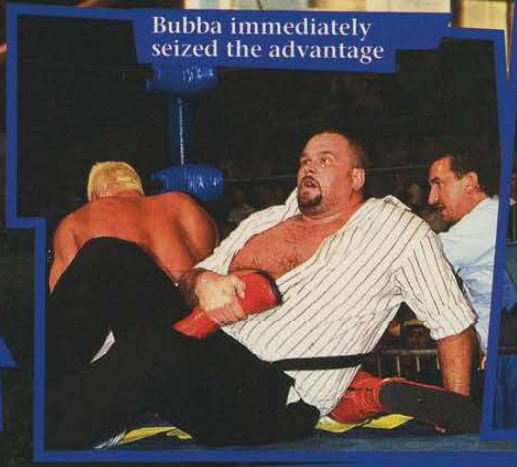
STING vs. BIG BUBBA ROGERS

Make no mistake...these two men don't like each other! When Bubba pointed at Sting at the start of the match, Sting bit his finger. The action only got wilder from there! Sting taunted Bubba with his own hat and coat, crushing the hat and throwing it into the crowd. He then nearly crushed the former Guardian Angel with his superb wrestling acumen. This all-action match saw Sting set new standards for excellence until a fluke injury derailed him. While attempting a leapfrog over Bubba, Sting caught his left knee on Bubba's shoulder and he just couldn't shake the pain. Sting tried to lift Bubba for a slam but Sting's weakened knee buckled and Bubba's massive girth helped him score the shock pinfall. Don't look for Sting to take this defeat lying down because whenever injuries have derailed him in the past, he's always battled back even stronger.

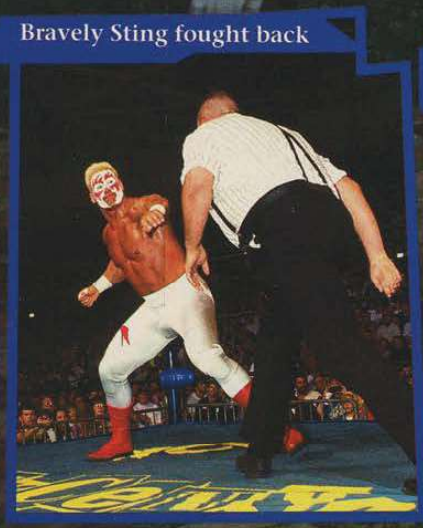
At the start Sting destroyed Bubba's attire

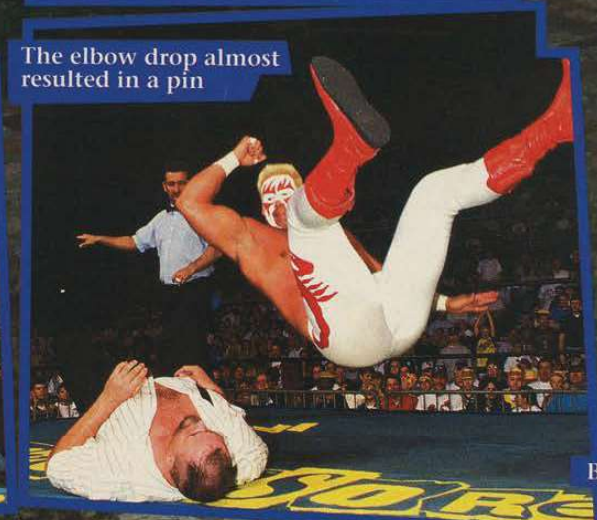
Sting tries a sleeper


Sting was injured leap-frogging Bubba

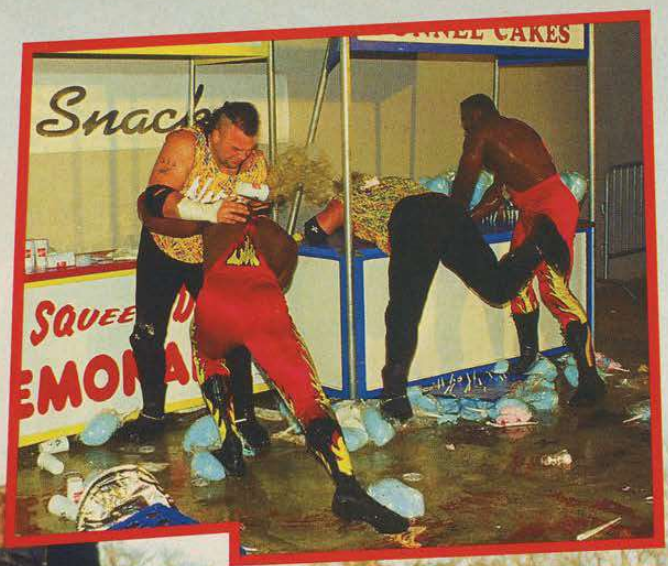

Bubba immediately seized the advantage

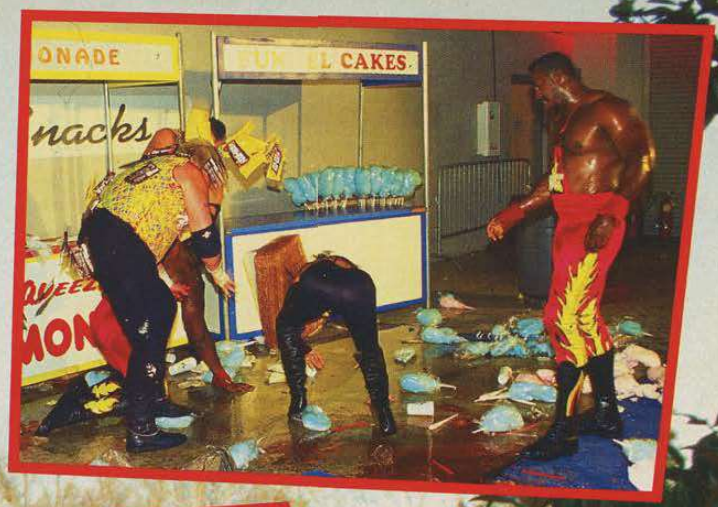
Bubba crushes Sting

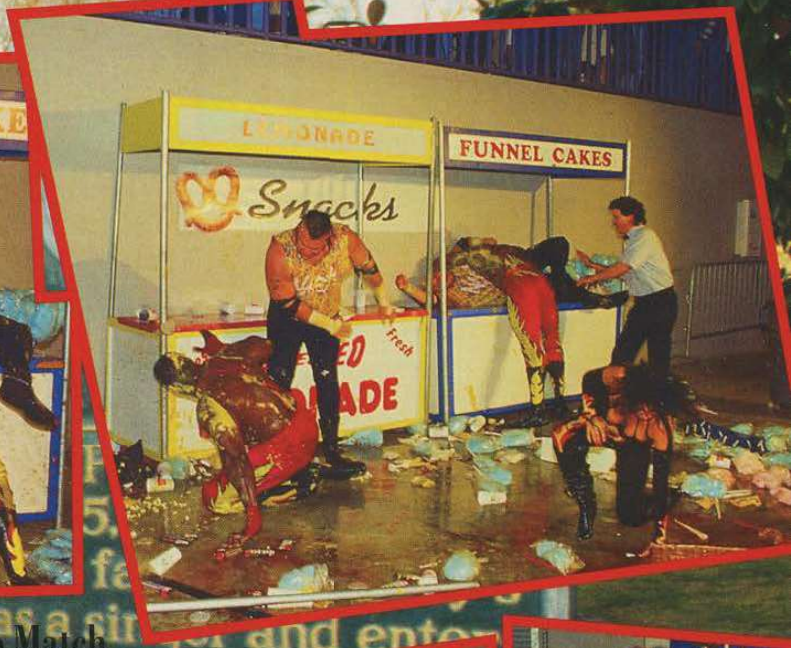

Bravely Sting fought back


The elbow drop almost resulted in a pin

Bubba keeps the pressure up







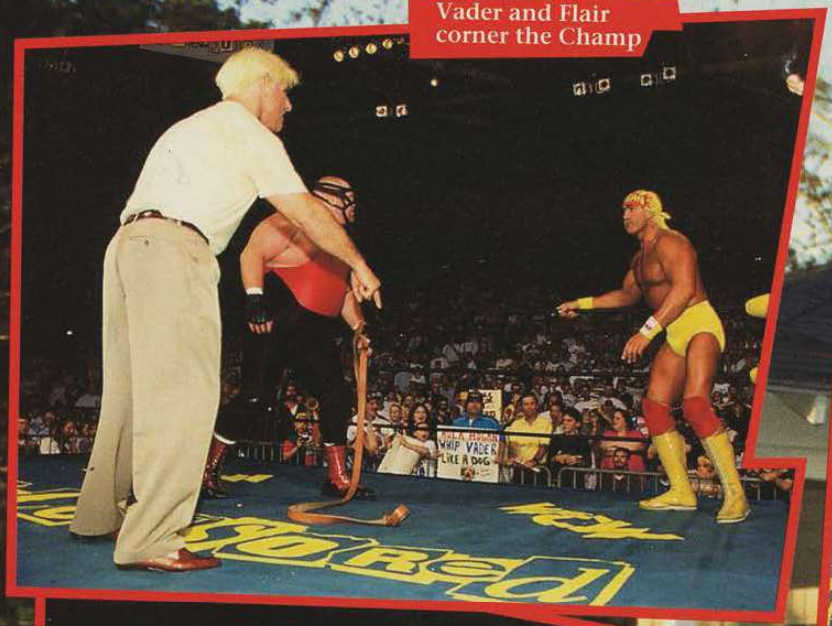
Texas Tornado Match

HARLEM HEAT vs. THE NASTY BOYS

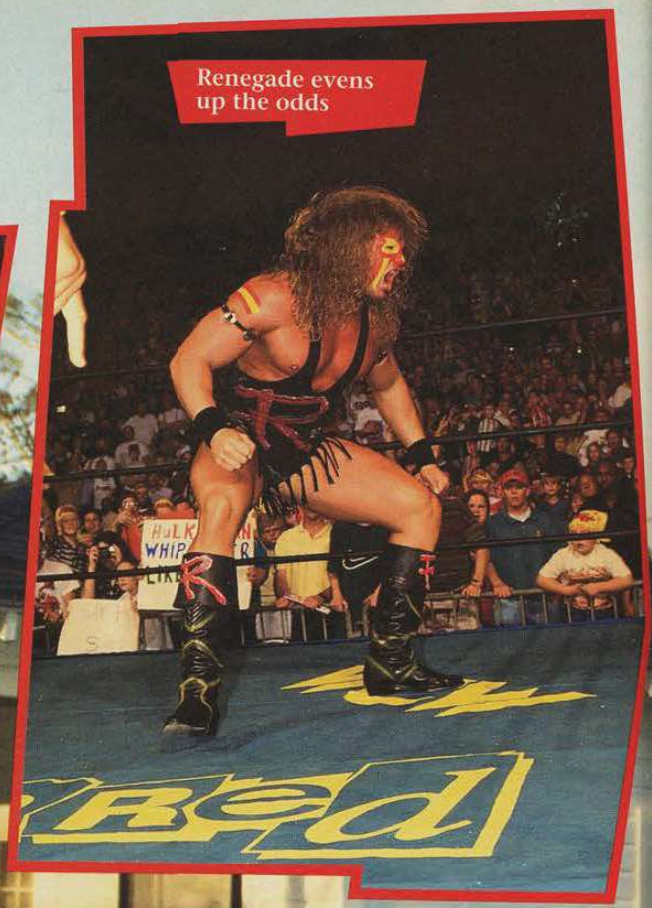
Too bad the WCW World Tag Team title wasn't on the line in this match, which saw Sags and Knobs score the messiest victory in history! Words cannot describe the scenes that took place during this match. Falls counted anywhere in this wild bout and when all four combatants–and Sister Sherri–decided to brawl through the food concession stand the mustard, ice, cotton candy and soda went flying! Stevie Ray, Booker T and Sherri tried every brawling tactic they could muster but when Knobs slammed Booker onto a crushed concession table, the Heat knew they'd been taken to Nastyville. Also, Sherri paid another trip to 'Pitty City," which is just the way the Nasties and their fans like it.

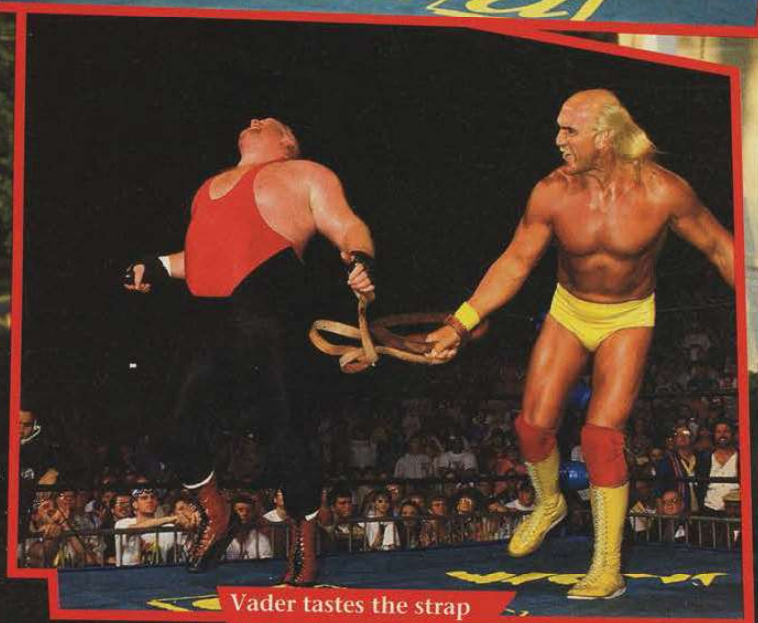
Beaten but unbowed, Harlem Heat were defeated and humiliated as these pictures show

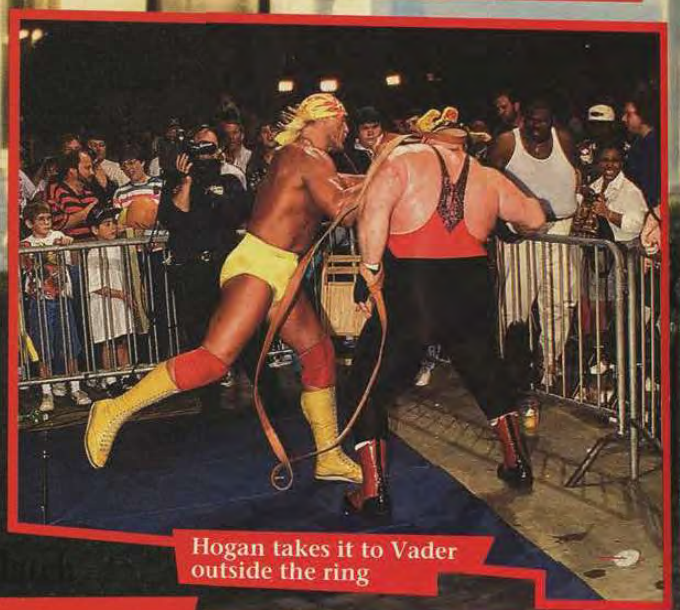
WCW UnCensored

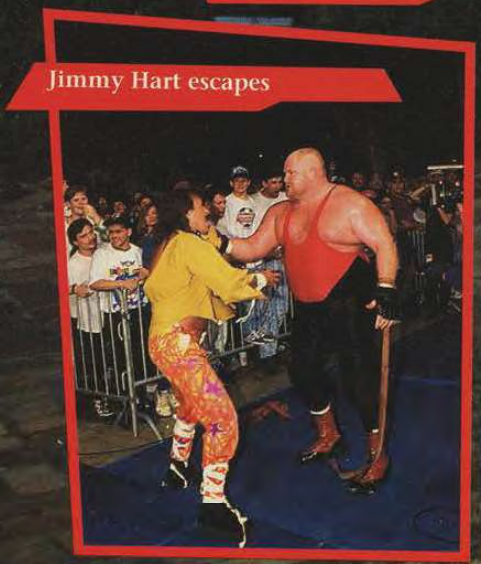


Vader and Flair corner the Champ


Renegade evens up the odds


Vader tastes the strap


Hogan takes it to Vader outside the ring

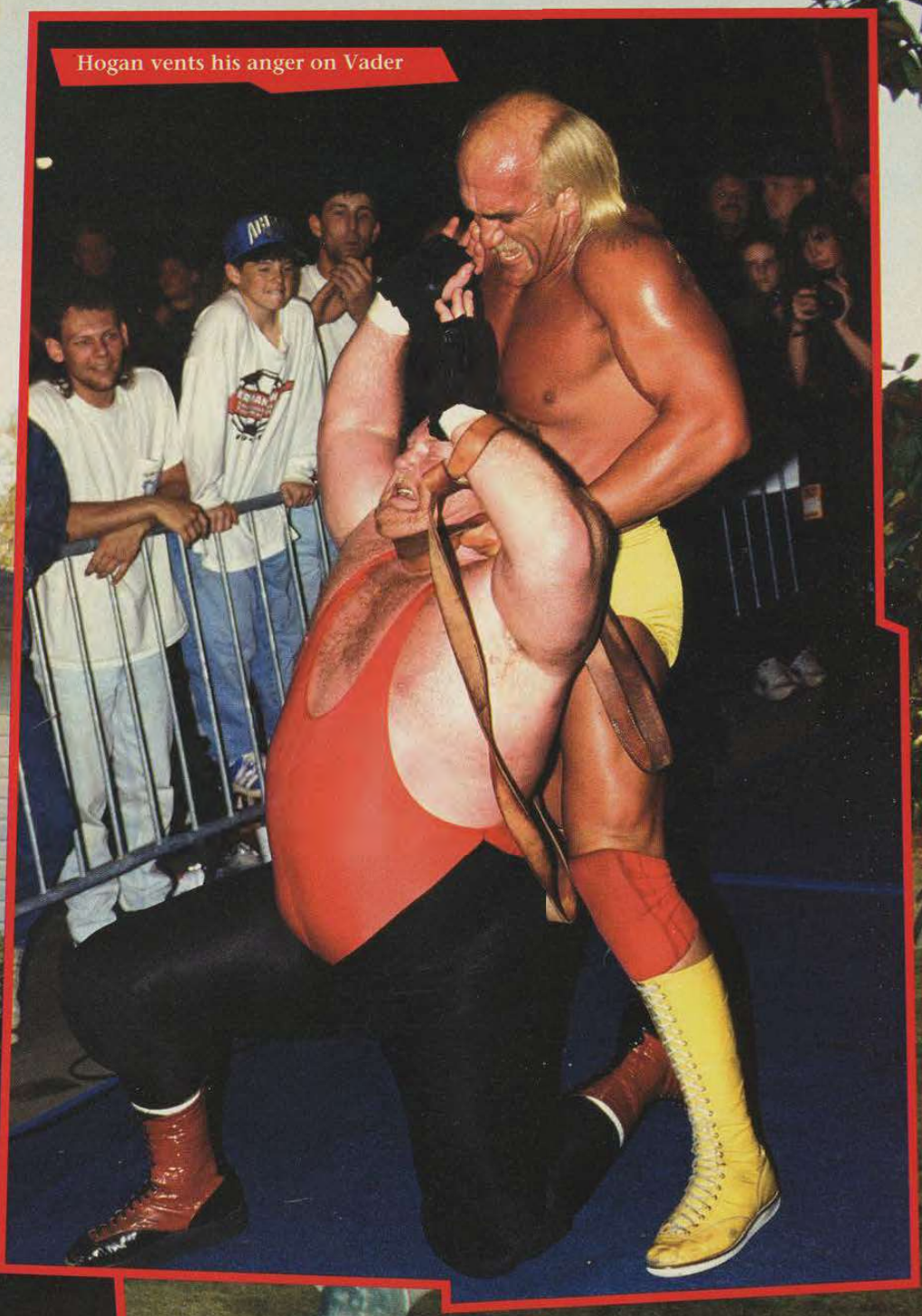

Jimmy Hart escapes

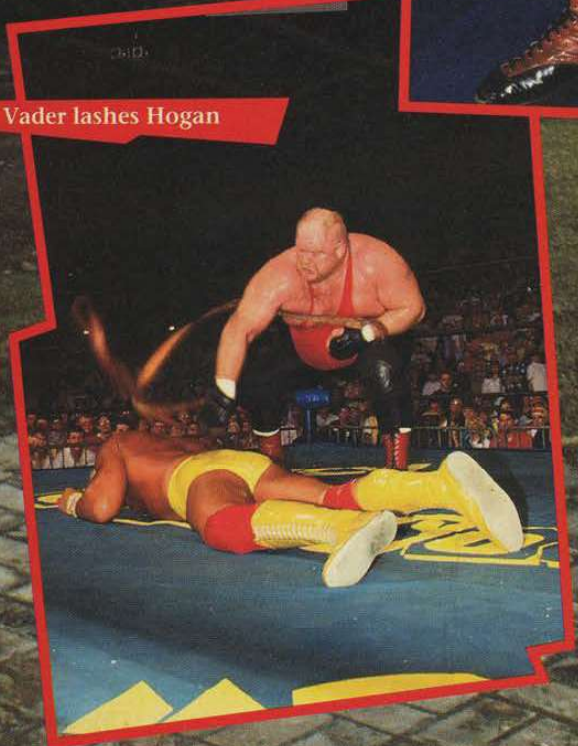
HOGAN vs. VADER

This incredible confrontation was the wildest bout of the night. Hogan and his team of supporters were ready for the war that Flair and Vader had promised. There were no rules and the anarchy that had already ruled the day throughout the card continued during this face-off. By the time this bout was through, few could have believed all the twists and turns of fate they had witnessed! A troubled Hogan made his way to the ring without his trusted manager, Jimmy Hart. Where was the "Mouth of the South?" Only Vader and Flair knew and they weren't talking. It looked bad for Hogan when it appeared that Flair and Vader were about to double-team him as the match began, but out of the locker room ran Renegade, Hogan's "secret weapon" for this important match. With the crowd wildly cheering, Renegade did a fantastic job in keeping the devious Flair away from

the action so that Hogan could concentrate on Vader.

It became obvious early on that Vader was primed and focused for this encounter. Never before had the U.S. Champion been more brutal and vicious, brawling with Hogan both in and out of the ring and blasting Hulk with a splash from the middle turnbuckle. Eventually, Hogan got some much needed moral support. Hart, with torn clothes and tape all over him, finally made it to ringside. Somehow, Vader and Flair had abducted him and tied Jimmy up so he couldn't be at the Hulkster's side for this important match. Buoyed by Hart's reappearance, Hogan took control by blasting Vader with a chair outside the ring. Hogan scored with a boot to the face, followed by a big legdrop and he dragged Vader to three corners of the ring. However, yet another mysterious masked man showed up at ringside and smashed Renegade. This allowed Flair to demolish Hogan with a wooden chair. Vader then dragged Hogan to three corners of the ring but that wasn't enough for Flair, who wanted to put Hogan out for good. He placed a chair under Hogan so that Vader could crush him but Vader slipped off the ropes

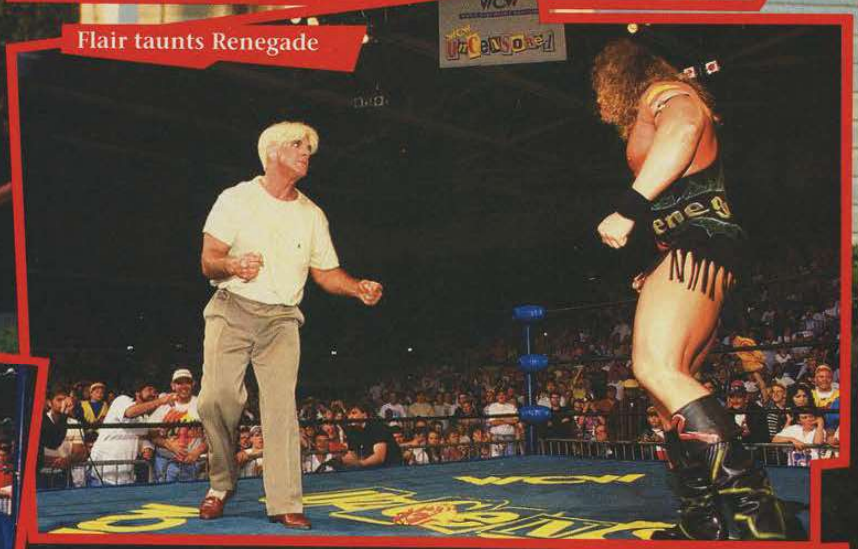

Hogan vents his anger on Vader


Vader lashes Hogan

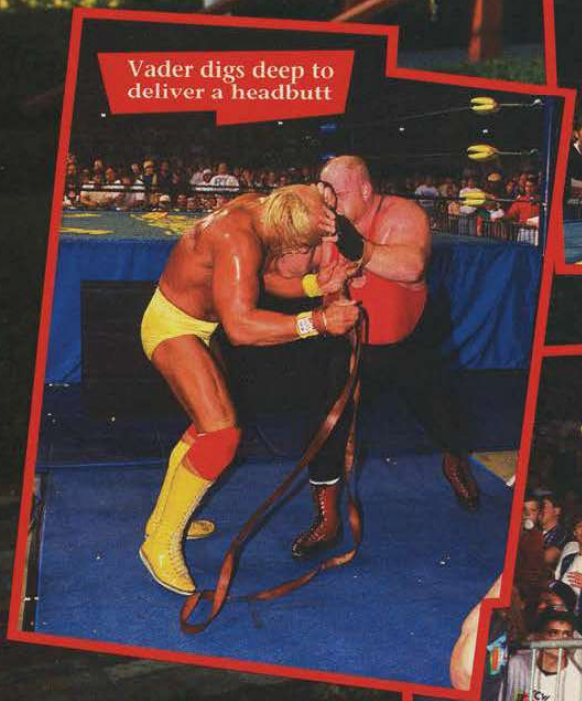
The pair struggle for control

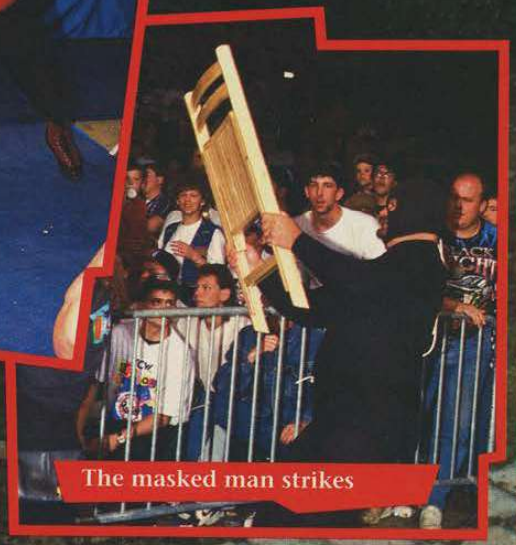
when he attempted a flying splash. A frustrated Flair pulled Vader out of the ring and then blasted Hogan with another chair. This time Hogan bounced up! He beat Flair with fists and bodyslams and then dragged him around to touch the four ringposts. This maneuver was good enough to allow harried WCW officials to declare Hogan victorious. As Flair and Vader squared up to take on Hogan and Renegade, a masked man ran into the ring, which made it three-on-two in favor of the Flair team. Or so it seemed! The masked man turned and belted Vader and Flair with a chair and then pulled off his mask! It was Randy Savage who, in the locker room, had caught up the original masked man, Arn Anderson. Savage had tied up Anderson the same way Flair and Vader had tied up Hart! The huge crowd on hand in Tupelo rejoiced as Hogan, Hart, Savage and Renegade reveled in the victory but the question which now remains is: How far will Vader and Flair go the next time any of these men meet?

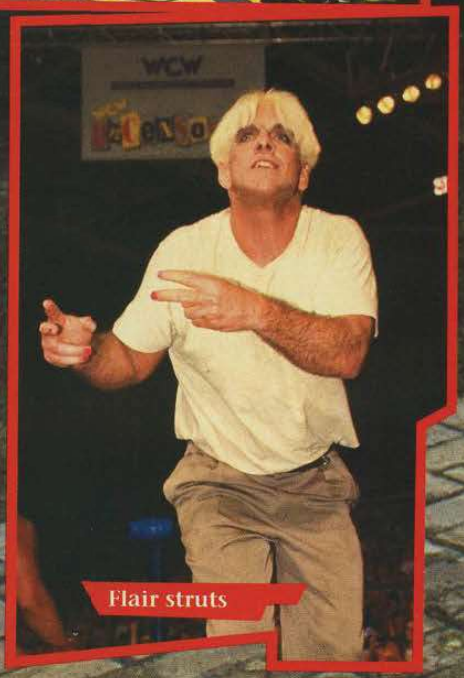
Vader wilts under the Champ's onslaught



Flair taunts Renegade

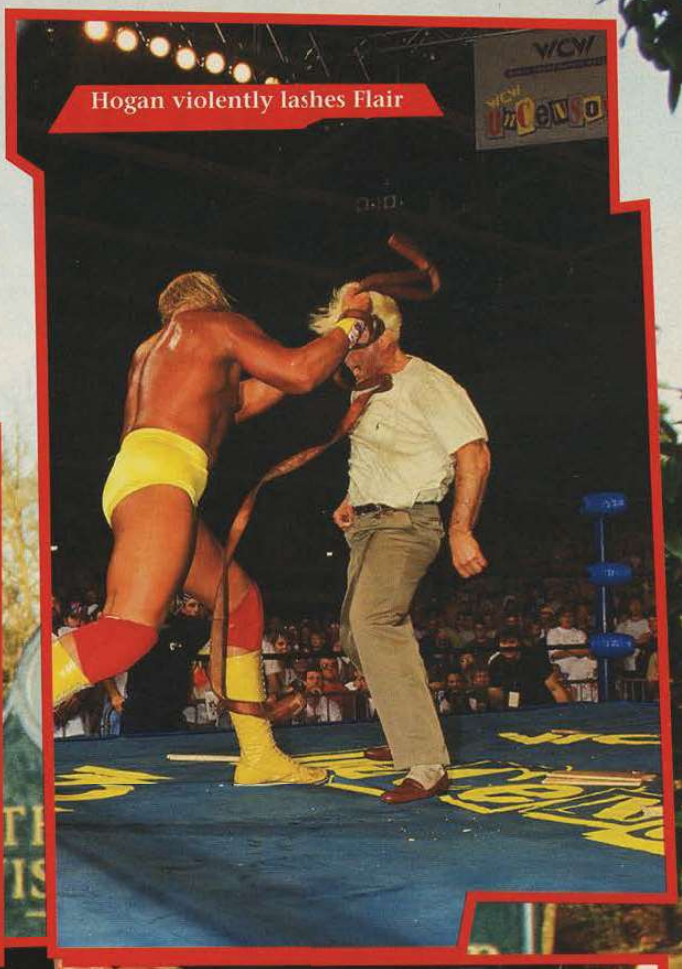

Vader digs deep to deliver a headbutt


The masked man strikes

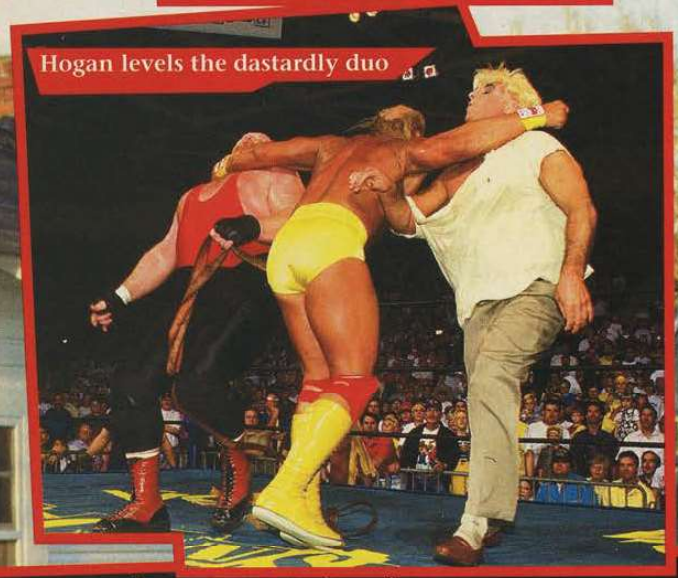


Flair struts

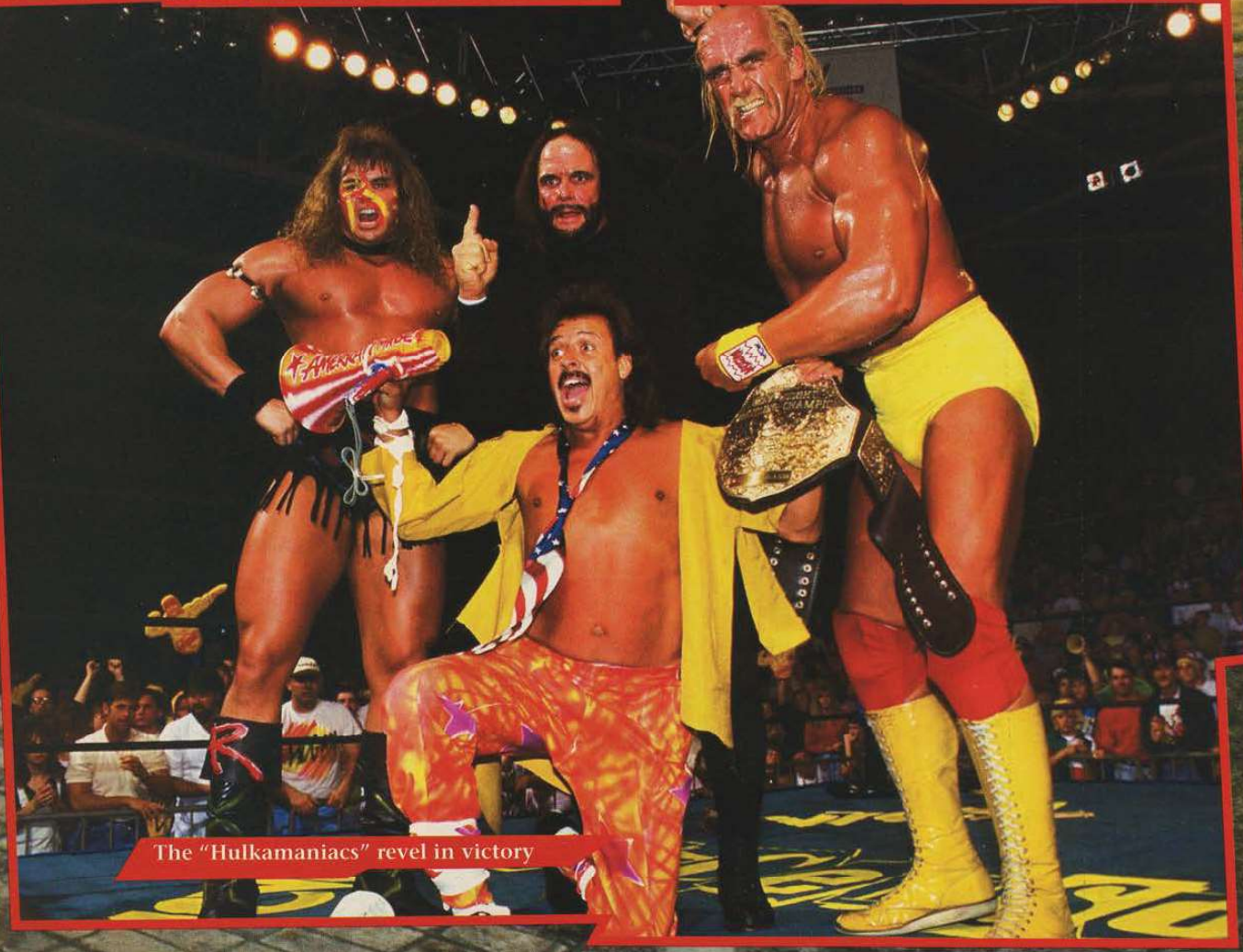
Vader drags Hogan from post-to-post



Hogan violently lashes Flair



Hogan levels the dastardly duo



The "Hulkamaniacs" revel in victory

TALKING POINT

WITH TONY SCHIAVONE

When the editors of WCW Magazine asked me, as a follow-up to last month's tag-team rankings, to rank the Top 10 singles wrestlers, I was faced with one tough task. Namely, how do I do it objectively?

You see, many factors come into play, particularly friendships. Over the past 10-years, I have developed some pretty close relationships.

Still, I feel quite strongly that these rankings, as of press time, are the most accurate. As an announcer for WCW Saturday Night, WCW World Wide and WCW Prime, I see a lot of matches close up but I am also a TV producer, so I see every match. That's right, EVERY match that is taped for television. Consequently, I feel that makes me an authority.

So, without further ado and with a tip of the cap to David Letterman, here are my Top 10 WCW Singles Wrestlers ...

No. 10 SGT. CRAIG PITTMAN

Surprise, surprise! Yes, I put Pittman here for one simple reason: He can wrestle. If he gets anyone– and I do mean anyone –in a hold, he will win, no doubt about it. He is the classic wrestler and pretty mean to boot. Boot Camp, that is. When Sarge ultimately gets a title shot, I am quite sure there will be a new champion...he's that good. In fact, he's so good, he might be the only who could hurt Meng!

No. 9 JOHNNY B. BADD

No doubt the hardest worker in the sport, Johnny has come a long way. A few years ago, he was a raw talent with a ton of desire. Now he is a polished wrestler and his best years are still ahead of him. Was Ric Flair this good only four years into this sport? Yes. So maybe their careers will parallel. Both are flamboyant and talented and I am convinced Badd will become one of the best ever. Mind you, he is pretty darn good already and he is a quick learner, which should help.

No. 8 MENG

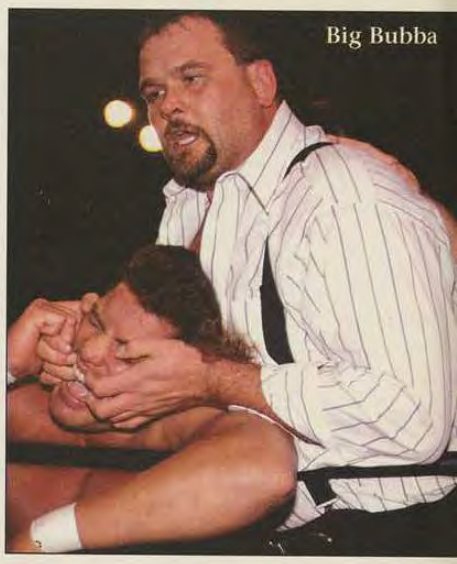
Perhaps the best way to become a successful wrestler is to first be a body guard. OK, so you don't really have to be a bodyguard but in Meng's case, it has certainly helped! Ask anyone in this sport and they'll say Meng, the proud protege of Col. Robert Parker, is the toughest, meanest man around. Meng just never – and I do mean never– feels pain, thanks no doubt to countless years as a Sumo star. He is a Kung Fu expert and certain championship material.

No. 7 BIG BUBBA

Now that he's back to his old ways, watch out!!! Sure, years of floundering with an identity crisis have hurt his career but now that he's back to his roots, he is better than ever. Power is his biggest asset, but his temper and fiery nature can get the best of him at times. The best thing going for Big Bubba right now is...he has no friends. No one trusts Big Bubba and he likes it that way. He is going to have a very successful career in singles competition.

Johnny B. Badd

Meng


Big Bubba

No. 6 ARN ANDERSON

Bottom line: Double-A can do it all and, with the exception of the WCW World Heavyweight Championship, he has. Arn's spinebuster and DDT are two of the most awesome moves in the sport. I believe Arn will be remembered as the greatest TV Champion of all time. Yes, I did just say EVER. He's that good.

No. 5 **VADER**

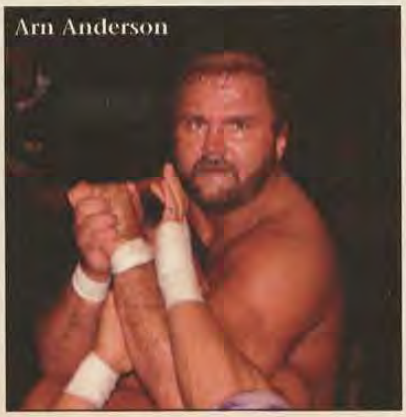
Without question, Vader could be No. 1 on this list. However, he is too preoccupied feeding his ego. He is too caught up with 'Vader Time' and intimidation. Still, you can't deny his ability and power. Vader's Power Bomb has become the most-feared move in the sport, hands down. It's not the move so much that's feared - -it's the person who's performing it. Vader has the ability to beat anyone, anywhere. By the time this edition of the WCW Magazine hits newsstands worldwide, he may be the WCW World Heavyweight Champion.

No. 4 **"MACHO MAN" RANDY SAVAGE**

If you asked me to rank wrestlers back in 1989, Randy Savage at least would have been No. 2, but this is 1995 and times have changed. Still however, as much as anyone in this sport, Randy Savage has ability. He has the ability to wrestle, the ability to fight and the ability to endure. The question remains, can he re-claim his past glory? I think so. The "Macho Man" is the type of wrestler who you love like a brother when he's on your side but fear like the devil when he's chasing you. Randy Savage is TNT behind sunglasses. He is perhaps the best high-flyer in the business and also maybe the best brawler. By Christmas, Randy Savage will have gold around his waist, trust me.

No. 3 **STING**

I never will forget 1988 ... the year Sting came into his own. He did it in the legendary match versus "Nature Boy" Ric Flair on a live Clash of the Champions from Greensboro, N.C. Sting and Flair wrestled to a draw that day, but what was so amazing was, what was going on during that period ... and how Sting reacted to it. You see, Ric Flair truly was The Man, as he so often claims. He was the WCW World Heavyweight Champion. Additionally, Flair was wrestling, for all intense purposes, in his own backyard. Flair, remember, is the Carolina Kid. That's his turf. So, the accomplishment by Sting that afternoon was on par with a college team –and not a Nebraska! – beating the San Francisco 49ers at Candlestick Park.


Arn Anderson

That match told me something about the Stinger and it still holds true today. He is so great because of his attitude. He doesn't worry about things. He might be attacked by a steel chair...so what. He could have his knee viciously attacked...and his thinking again is, so what! Sting doesn't get down; he just keeps fighting and fighting and fighting. I guess this is a California Thing. Kind of like, "Hey dude, radical..."

Sting was successful back in '88 against Flair because he probably didn't think about where he was or who he was against. Today, Sting is much more mature and a much better wrestler. Man, I envy him.

No. 2 **RIC FLAIR**

You just can't deny Ric Flair's ability. Even after all these years, he can still out-wrestle anyone on any given day. The problem is, the current-day Ric Flair is a nut! He is so possessed with destroying Hulk Hogan, it's scary. I feel he's failed against Hogan because of that hatred. Personally, I like the old Ric Flair better. Should he clear his mind of that hatred, then he might win. Hey, maybe I should be a manager! Flair's raw ability has been his single greatest attribute over the years. Surprised? You shouldn't be. Ric Flair was born to be a wrestler. Years later, he still is a three-count away from being champion – but also three seconds from the loony bin!

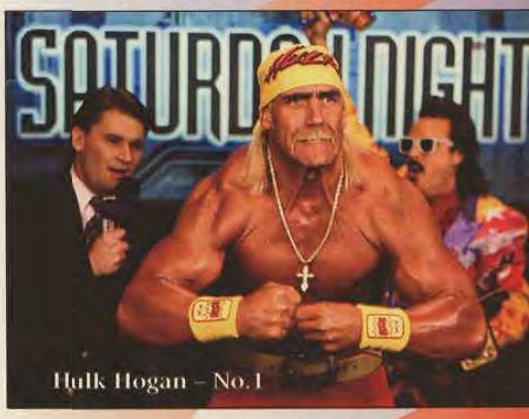
No. 1 **And finally, the No. 1 wrestler in WCW (no drum-roll needed here) is: HULK HOGAN**

OK, so I'm sure there are plenty of you questioning my sanity right now but I honestly believe Hulk Hogan is the top wrestler in WCW. Let me tell you a little story. I was part of the old NWA for six years before my one year in the WWF. The year was 1989 and being a man who cut his broadcasting teeth on the likes of Ric Flair and Dusty Rhodes, I was very skeptical of the Hulkster's ability. The year 1989 changed all that. I found him to be better than I had heard. I saw him in Madison Square Garden dig down deep for one last breath. I saw him in Hershey, PA, look for one more gasp of air. I saw him in Atlantic City bury a year of back-stabbing and pain to win, yet again.

To me, there is only one attribute that makes him better than everyone else: Perseverance. He calls it the power of Hulkamania and credits the fans. Fine, I'm sure they help pump the adrenaline but perseverance comes from within. Credit his parents as much as anyone. They must have taught him, at a very young age, that you must stick it out until the very end. It is this, among everything else, that made him what he is: The Muhammad Ali of wrestling. Yes, The Greatest.

The one moment for me that shows what this quality is all about was back in January, at the Clash of Champions live from Caesars Palace. Hogan was beaten by Vader, then suffered the awesome Powerbomb...but Hogan rose...I was dumbfounded.

Long live Hulkamania!

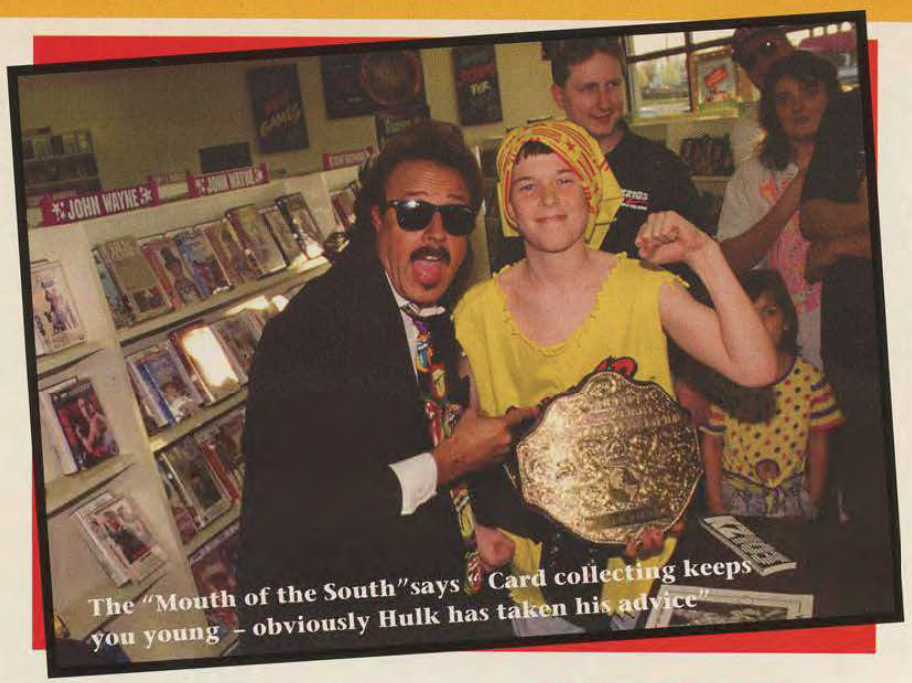


Hulk Hogan – No.1

So there you have it, the first-ever Top 10 rankings of WCW singles wrestlers. But wait, you're saying. Where's Flyin' Brian? Where's Stunning Steve? Where's "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan? Where's "Das Wunderkind" Alex Wright? Where's Kevin Sullivan? Where's Dave Sullivan, for that matter? Where's Avalanche?

The top wrestlers in the world are all here in WCW, and thus, this list could change weekly. So stay tuned.

Tony Schiavone is the co-host of the weekly TBS show WCW Saturday Night. He also supplies the play-by-play commentary on the WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts.



The "Mouth of the South" says "Card collecting keeps you young – obviously Hulk has taken his advice"

WCW's FUTURE IS IN THE CARDZ™!

Wanna trade Michael Jordan for Hulk Hogan?

Wanna trade Michael Jordan for Hulk Hogan?

How about Joe Montana and Jerry Rice for Stevie Ray and Booker T. of Harlem Heat?

Or maybe you'd prefer Wayne Gretzky for Ric Flair?

Yes sir, it's now possible...in the trading card world.

World Championship Wrestling has teamed with Dallas-based CARDZ to produce WCW Main Event trading cards, so all of your favorites – and your least favorites – will be on full-color, glitzy cards.

The 100-card set will be available at retail and hobby stores throughout the U.S. and Canada during the first week of May. Eight-card, foil-wrapped packs will sell for less than $1.

"When I played minor league baseball in the early-1970s, I always dreamed of getting my rookie card," said "Macho Man" Randy Savage, a catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, Cincinnati Reds and Chicago White Sox. "These cards from CARDZ are like a game-winning home run in Game Seven of the World Series, Oooooh yeah!"

The set features action and posed pictures of such WCW superstars as Sting, Flyin' Brian, Meng, Johnny B. Badd, The Nasty Boys and Vader among others. There will be special subsets highlighting managers (such as Col. Robert Parker), announcers (like Bobby "The Brain" Heenan), up-and-comers (Alex Wright), Pay-Per-View specials (Slamboree), famous holds (like The Hulkster's Atomic Leg Drop) and reigning champions (Arn Anderson).

Plus, there will be a special multi-card tribute series to the careers of Hogan, Savage, Flair and Sting.

"The best professional wrestlers in the world are in WCW, so we're thrilled to feature them on trading cards,"" said Art Young, Vice President of Marketing & Sales for CARDZ.

Each card features two photos: one on the front and one on the back and there is also biographical information on the backs.

"The Main Event cards truly capture the emotion of WCW at its best," said Paul Luchowski, of Canton, Ohio. "My favorite wrestlers are Ric Flair and Arn Anderson, so you can bet I'm going to get some extras of them."

Added Jack McNixon, of Las Cruces, N.M., "All I know is, I better get a Bobby "The Brain" Heenan card in the first pack I buy; He's the best. I don't want to have to wait to get his card."

"I can't wait to get some of the WCW cards; they should be great," said noted collector Jeff Rosenberg of Houston, Texas. "I'm a huge Hulkamaniac, so I sure hope to get as many of his cards as possible."

Naturally, so does Hogan's manager, "Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart. "Fans might not know this but I'm a big-time card collector; baseball, football, basketball and hockey cards. I even have (wrestling) cards of Gorgeous George, Dory Funk Sr. and others from 1956."

Hart added, "Of course I want to get the Hulkster's cards but I also want some Randy Savage cards and the Monster Maniac card...because that card truly is a piece of history."

Trading cards can also be a great way of collecting autographs. Memorabilia experts vary on the exact increased value of an autographed card, but signed-cards certainly make an ideal mantle-piece item.

"Collecting cards keeps you young," said Hart. "Shoot, you'd have to be a fool to not think it's a happening to walk into a card shop and simply browse around."

Stores such as Sports Fever!, a memorabilia shop in downtown Chicago, store owner Chuck Blatt said, "Card collecting is a piece of Americana and that definitely includes WCW's cards from CARDZ. Personally, I want to get my hands on some Randy Savage cards, Ooooh yeah!"

Doesn't everyone!

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THE BLUE BLOODS

ON A ROYAL

When Lord Steven Regal first met Beautiful Bobby, he thumbed his nose at him and walked away. Today, Regal's opinion of the high-flying Alabama veteran has changed, Bobby is now Earl Robert and this fantastic team known as The Blue Bloods are already instant contenders!

"Low bred..." spits Lord Steven Regal. Ugly words, to be sure but they weren't nearly as ugly as the sneer on his ever-so-arrogant face. When Regal, a former WCW Television champion, appeared on WCW Saturday Night and announced he wanted to find a new tag team partner, he knew exactly what he was looking for.

A man with class and distinction.

A wrestler with great scientific acumen.

A man who could team with him to go all the way to the WCW World tag team championship.

Well two out of three wasn't bad.

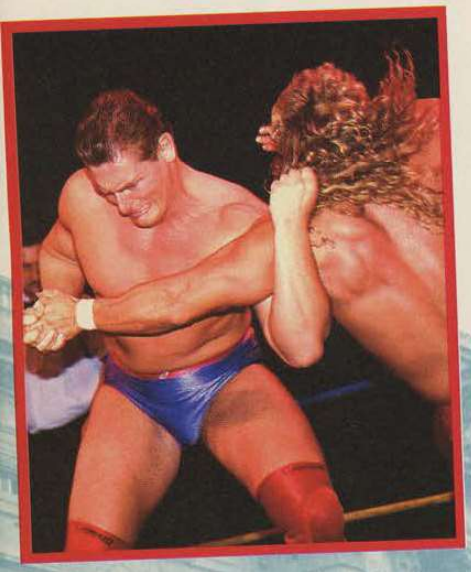
"There is no better wrestler in tag team competition around here than me," said Bobby when he heard of Regal's quest. He listened intently to every word that Regal had to say. He walked to the interview area and asked a simple question, "How about me? I"d be a great partner for you!"

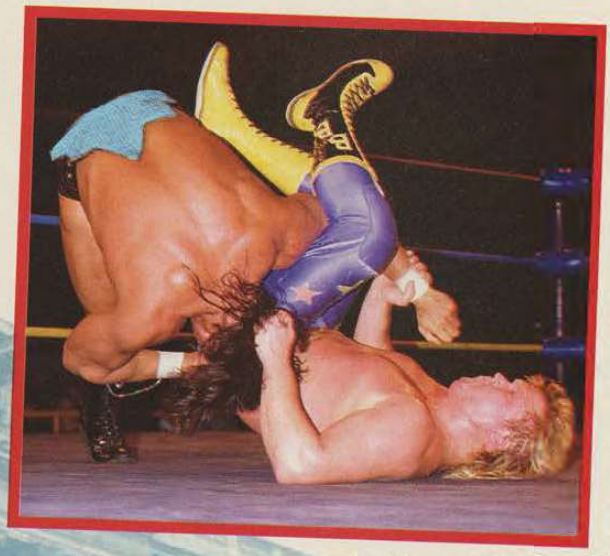
Regal simply muttered a few haughty comments about "not understanding Swahili" and walked away. He looks back at that day now as "one of the biggest mistakes I've ever made in my life."

"To be perfectly honest with you commoners, I was not that familiar with Mr. Eaton or his previous ability until just recently," said Regal, easily one of the most hated rulebreakers in WCW. "I just knew that he dressed in T-shirts and was a very common, hot dog-eating, gum-chewing American Southerner. I did not know what a fine, fine wrestler Robert is-until I stepped in the ring against him, that is."

The following week on television, Eaton again made an offer to Regal but Regal responded by telling Bobby that "I don't take in waifs and strays. Move along!" Angered by Regal's haughty attitude, Bobby challenged Regal to a one-on-one match. "He's wrong about me," said Eaton before that fateful bout.

PATH TO TOP





"He doesn't know me...he doesn't know how great I am!"

That fact was proven when Regal and Bobby finally locked up. Even Regal would admit that Bobby dominated him, crushing him with great brawling and aerial maneuvers. Shockingly, Regal rolled out of the ring and summoned "Mean" Gene Okerlund to the interview area. "What a wonderful partner this man would make," he told a stunned worldwide television audience of the man who before the bout he called "a pathetic wretch." "Bobby, I think you would make a fantastic partner!" Bobby later warily shook Regal's hand and they returned to the locker room together. The very next week, Eaton and Regal announced they had formed The Blue Bloods, a scientific team the likes of which is rarely seen in this great sport. It's a duo that could very well go all the way to the top.

What makes them so successful? It all has to do with attitude and, suddenly they both believe they're unbeatable. Beautiful Bobby is not beautiful anymore. He now prefers to be called Earl Robert Eaton, and Regal claims that he's making big changes in his partner's lifestyle. Bobby has even suddenly began speaking with a pronounced English accent!

"I've done everything I can to show Robert the proper way--MY way," says the pompous Regal. "I took him back to England to introduce him to training, the likes of which he's never encountered. I took him to Riley's Gym in Wigan, the most famous wrestling school in Britain. I groomed him, threw away his t-shirts and disgusting jeans and gave him the kind of tailored clothing from Saville Row that makes a man a true gentleman and true royalty. If you think that when I call him Earl Robert it's just a ruse, well, you're wrong. I actually took the man to Buckingham Palace and had him knighted by Her Majesty. So from now on, when you address this gentleman, call him Earl Robert or there will be serious trouble, I assure you."

The most serious trouble for WCW, however, is when this incredibly skilled duo competes in tag team fashion. Instantly, these lithe and talented natural athletes were a perfect fit. Eaton, still WCW's most quiet man (he says few words, preferring Regal to do the talking for him), blasts his foes with his incredible Alabama jam legdrop and his other amazing aerial maneuvers, while Regal brings wrestlers to the mat with his textbook knowledge of scientific holds. Thus far, they're undefeated, which is rare for a team of relative lightweights. Unlike the brawling teams such as The Nasty Boys and Harlem Heat, The Blue Bloods beat their opponents with skill and savvy.

"Now Bobby's as arrogant as Regal, but there's no denying their talent," says commentator Gordon Solie. "In even their earliest matches, they had a flow and rhythm to their teamwork that I haven't seen much, even in veteran teams. Make no mistake: The Blue Bloods are going somewhere."

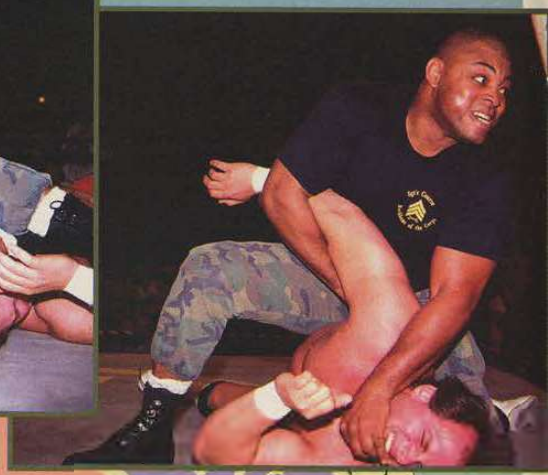
It takes a lot to get a man as downright egocentric as Regal to admit he made a mistake, but he certainly did where Earl Robert is concerned.

"This man is fantastic," said Regal. "He's one of the greatest wrestlers I've ever seen. He knows how to take the short-cut methods as well as wrestle, and I believe that's why he won so many World tag team championships in the past. Now, I want to win the title with him. This is no short-term team, like was my venture with Jean-Paul LeVesque. This team is permanent. We are ready for anything WCW has to offer us. Just give us a contract and we will sign it. Are you listening, Harlem Heat?"

For a team so new to even suggest garnering a title match might seem ludicrous, but not this team. Their undefeated streak remains unbroken and the formula is always the same; Regal brings the brains and Robert brings the brawling. In truth, Earl Robert Eaton is as American as Apple Pie, while Regal prefers buttered scones. No matter! Experts such as Tony Schiavone already consider The Blue Bloods to be a truly great team and that will certainly mean the blues for everyone who comes up against them!

RISING STAR

SGT CRAIG PITTMAN



The United States Marine Corps is known around the world as an unbeatable fighting force and one of the world's best prepared military organizations. They say once you're a Marine, you might leave the Corps, but it never leaves you.

Sgt. Craig Pittman is pure Marine, right down to his military-regulation wrestling boots. An incredibly athletic 265-pounder, Pittman has achieved what most rookie grapplers can only dream of doing. He's become a serious contender for every title in WCW only weeks after his pro wrestling debut!

How has this brutal taskmaster, a former drill instructor and multiple-time amateur wrestling champion, done so much in so little time? Not only is he vastly talented, but he's got a mean streak as wide as the barracks at Parris Island, South Carolina, where he makes his home.

"I've had a lot of military training in aggression," says Pittman, who loudly barks out his words as easily as he brings his overmatched opponents to the mat. "Being a Marine Corps wrestler, I was on a team with a number of great athletes. It was like being down in the pit at all times. I always had to defend myself but I always won. I like to accept all challenges--I never back down!"

Opponents will back down from Pittman when they get locked in his finishing maneuver, the already feared Code Red. A variation of the short-arm scissors, this incredibly painful hold which can dislocate a man's elbow and arm, causes nearly instant submissions among the foes he's faced.

"I know the fans don't respect me, but that is no matter,"

"It's an odd submission hold that locks the elbow joint out," Pittman explained but noted that he would not tell us all of the complexities of the hold. "Not too many people who get their elbows damaged like that are likely to go on with their match!"

However, Pittman's rough and tough attitude makes it hard for the fans to respect him, even with his abundance of raw talent.

"I know the fans don't respect me, but that is no matter," said Pittman brashly. "If those fans won't give me respect, I'll demand it. Even if they won't admit it, deep down, they WILL respect me!"

The wrestlers Pittman has beaten already respect him. So do the scores of amateurs he's defeated in garnering a huge roster of championships: 17-time Armed Forces champion; Silver Medal in the Pan Am Games-twice; Two-time National Greco-Roman champion; Five-time National Sambo champion; Two Gold medals at Olympic Festivals and the list of his accomplishments goes on.

The thing that puts the most fear in Pittman's opponents, however, is the look of sheer intensity in his eyes when he enters the ring. That look is frightening enough, but combine it with the obvious rancor he displays and it's already for sure that WCW's Champions, be they Hulk Hogan, Arn Anderson or anyone else, have a new contender to deal with.

"When I trained as an amateur, I worked myself all the way to the Olympics," said Pittman with the utmost confidence. "It's going to be the same thing in WCW. I call it the stepladder system. From the bottom to the top, rung by rung, all the way to the World title...and I want all the rest of the championships on the way there!"

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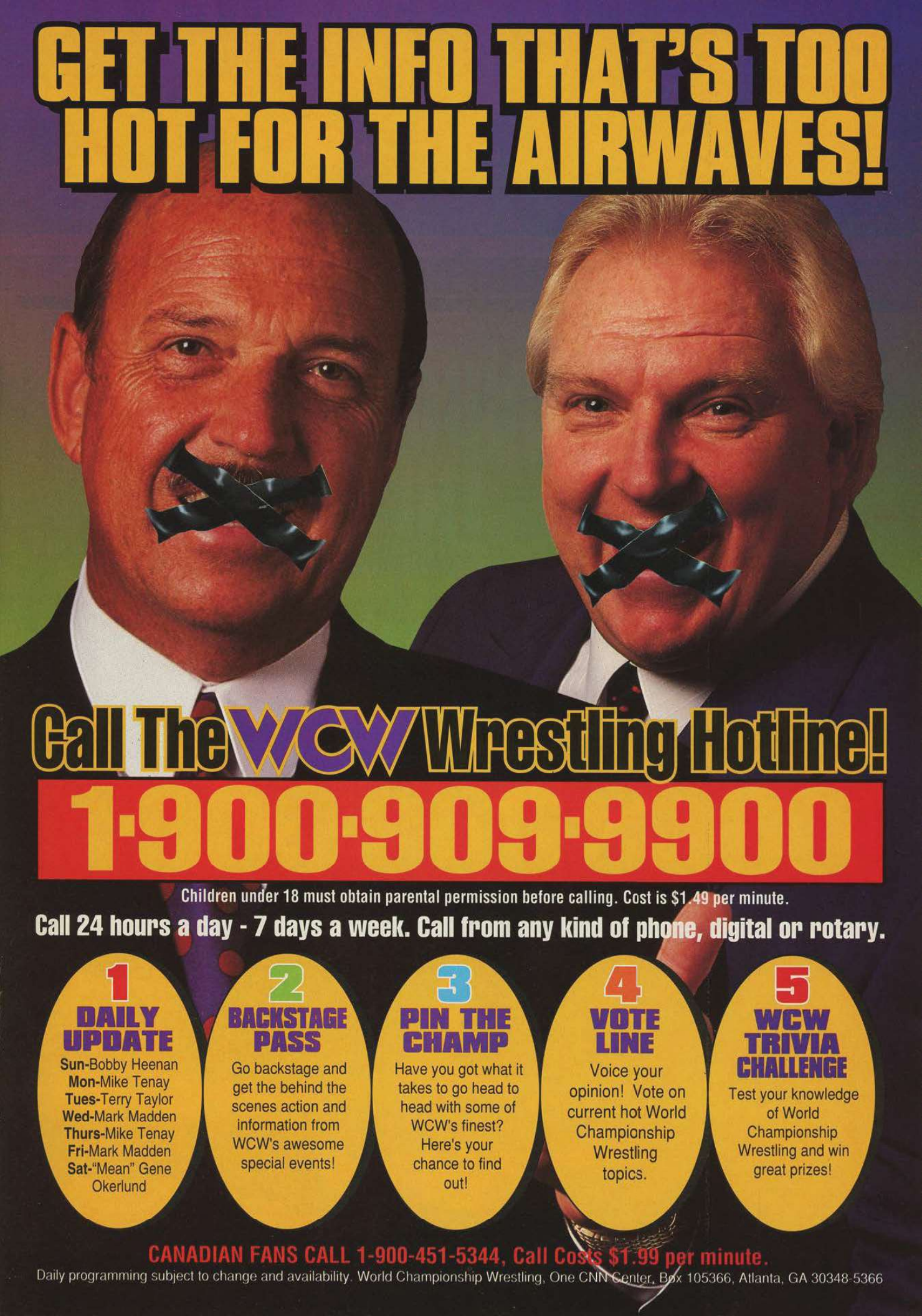

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Fri-Mark Madden
Sat-"Mean" Gene Okerlund

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PROGRAM GUIDE PROGRAM GUIDE

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WRBW ORLANDO, KSBS STEAMBOAT SPRINGS
KJZZ SEATTLE

WCW WORLDWIDE
KOB ALBUQUERQUE, KFDA AMARILLO
WGNX ATLANTA, WFXG AUGUSTA
WBFF BALTIMORE, WLOX BILOXI/GULFPORT
WTTO BIRMINGHAM, WVVA BLUEFIELD
WTAT CHARLESTON,SC, WVAH CHARLESTON/
HUNTING, WFTV CHARLOTTE
WDSI CHATTANOOGA, WCIU CHICAGO
WUBA CLEVELAND, WOLO COLUMBIA
WRBL COLUMBUS, WWHO COLUMBUS
WTVA COLUMBUS/TUPELO, KXTX DALLAS/
FORT WORTH, KJMH DAVENPORT/R. ISLAND
WRGT DAYTON, KTVD DENVER, WDIV
DETROIT, WTVY DOTHAN, KJLF EL PASO
WJET ERIA, KEVU EUGENE, WBTW FLORENCE
WFFT FORT WAYNE, KAIL FRESNO/VISLIA
KPBI FT. SMITH, WGHP GREENSBORO/W.S.
WRMY GREENVILLE, WXVT GREENWOOD/
GREENVILLE, WHSV HARRISONBURG
WTWS HARTFORD/NEW HAVEN
WHLT HATTIESBURG/LAUREL
WYLR HUNTSVILLE, WJTV JACKSON
WMTU JACKSON, WNFT JACKSONVILLE
WWCP JOHNSTOWN/ALTOONA
KSMO KANSAS CITY, WKXT KNOXVILLE
KRLR LAS VEGAS, KASN LITTLE ROCK/PINE BLFF
KNBC LOS ANGELES, WFTE LOUISVILLE
KJTV LUBBOCK, WMGT MACON
WGOT MANCHESTER, WLMT MEMPHIS
WBFS MIAMI/FT LAUDERDALE
WEAR MOBILE PENSACOLA
WCOV MONTGOMERY, WXMT NASHVILLE
WGNO NEW ORLEANS, WCBS NEW YORK
WVEC NORFOLK, WKCF ORLANDO
WPHL PHILADELPHIA, WPTT PITTSBURGH
WPRI PROVIDENCE, WKFT RALEIGH/DURHAM
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WCTV TALLAHASSEE
WTVT TAMPA, WBAK TERRE HAUTE
KTFO TULSA, KCEN WACO/TEMPLE
WTOV WHEELING/STEUBENVILLE
KEBB YAKIMA

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BIRMINGHAM/ANNISTON, KYLE BRYAN/
WACO/TEMPLE, WCTP CHARLESTON
WCIV CHARLESTON, WFVT CHARLOTTE
WCIU CHICAGO, WWHO COLUMBUS
WCBI COLUMBUS TUPELO, KWGN DENVER
WGPR DETROIT, KJLF EL PASO
WFAY FAYETTEVILLE, WGSE FLORENCE
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LAUREL, WYLE HUNTSVILLE/DEC/FLO
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WTOC SAVANNAH, KTZZ SEATTLE/TACOMA
KDQ SPOKANE, KSGI ST GEORGE
WBSV TAMPA/ST PETE/SAR
WAQ WEST PALM BEACH

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TUSCALOOSA, KYLE BRYAN/WACO/TEMPLE
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ASHEVILLE, WYLE HUNTSVILLE/DEC/FLO
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LIVE EVENT CALENDAR

Check out our calendar below to find out when WCW will be coming to your area. Cities, arenas and dates are subject to change, so please check before you make your plans.

MAY

21 SLAMBOREE PPV
ST. PETERSBURG, FL.
24 BERLIN, GERMANY
25 HAMBURG, GERMANY
26 KIEL, GERMANY
27 NORTHEIM, GERMANY
28 INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA
29 VIENNA, AUSTRIA
30 STUTTGART, GERMANY
31 DORTMUND, GERMANY

JUNE

1 FRANKFURT, GERMANY
6 DALTON, GA.
TV TAPING
7 CENTER STAGE
TV TAPING

SRN RADIO NETWORK

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WHEN AM 620 SYRACUSE, NY
KMZE FM 92.1 WOODWARD, OK

The Nasty Boys have a simple summer plan: Three-peat.

That's right, Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags, the dynamic duo from New York, have their sites set on reclaiming the WCW World Tag-Team Championship that they have held twice before.

They'll go through Harlem Heat, The Blue Bloods, Stars and Stripes and even the Monster Maniacs if need be.

WCW Magazine sat down with Knobs and Sags in their locker room at the Tupelo (Miss.) Coliseum about 90-minutes after their Uncensored free-for-all victory over Harlem Heat. The Nasty Boys were tired and sore, to say the least. They had ice bags for every achy, breaky bone but, hey, they were still willing to talk.

This month's question master is Andy Abramson of Bonsall, Calif.

How did the two of you first meet?

Brian: "Let me explain, we were playing Little League baseball for the Stiles A's, when we were about 10-years old. Sags was the first baseman, and I was the left fielder. Believe me, nothing ever got by us because we were the nastiest guys on the diamond."

Have either of you ever played any other sports?

Jerry: "You better believe it. We both played football for Whitehall (PA) High School. We were the defensive tackles and nobody messed with us. After that, I played some college ball while Knobs went into the Army. But within two years, we were both kicked out (of college and the Army, respectively) because no one could handle us."

(Editor's Note: Both Nasty Boys seemed thrilled with the fact that no one could handle them. At this point, they stood up and high-fived one another.)

Have either of you worked as singles wrestlers?

Jerry: "Yeah, on occasion we have gone it alone, but as far as we're concerned, there is no reason to... because we are the best tag-team in the world, no questions about it. We are as nasty as we want to be, wreaking havoc every where we go...and people love it."

What do you think of Sister Sherri? Would you ever have her as your manager or anyone else?

(Editor's Note: When I mentioned Sherri's name, The Nasty Boys looked at each other, then each started laughing hysterically. Then, simultaneously, both started ripping in to the manager for Harlem Heat. Here are Brian's printable comments:)

"Sherri is so ugly that she should be in the dog pound. She's just a mutt with a nasty mug...and I don't mean a (good) Nasty mug, if you know what I mean. Sherri as our manager? Not a chance. As for anyone else...well, I don't know. Right now we're doing it alone and we're not doing too bad, thank you."

Do you prefer straight-forward wrestling matches or do you like specialty matches with no rules?

Brian: "The Nasty Boys certainly like those specialty matches where we don't have to worry about the stupid rules. There's nothing like a good ol' street-fight. But if we simply have to wrestle, so be it."

What was your toughest match?

Jerry: "I'd have to say the (Feb. 19, 1995) SuperBrawl V match against Harlem Heat in (the) Baltimore (MD) Arena. We felt we had won the titles but then another ref interfered and got the decision changed. That really hurt us inside because we thought we had won it. But, that's how it goes. The Nasty Boys don't cry over nothing."

Is the WCW Tag-Team Championship still your ultimate goal?

Brian: "You better believe it because that shows that you are the very best. Having the championship gold around your waist...it doesn't get any better that. We're so focused on the titles right now that I'm going out on a limb and will guarantee our three-peat some time in 1995. Remember the Joe Namath Guarantee years ago in the Super Bowl? Well, he came through, and so will we."

What advice do you have for people who want to get started in wrestling?

Jerry: "You can do anything you want to do, and be successful at it, as long as you put your mind to it. Study and work hard, then all of your dreams will come true."

I read somewhere that you have made an album? Is that true, and if so, when will it be available? Do you both sing and can either of you play a musical instrument?

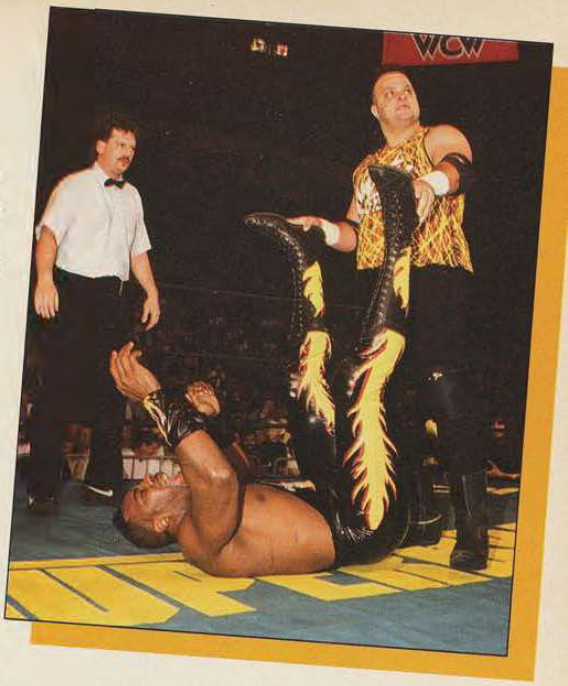
Brian: "You got it right, Andy. Nasty-Sensation is taking off all around, not just in the squared-circle. We have an album (title: The Nasty Boys Rap) due out this summer and have been contacted about some (upcoming) screen plays. And, yes, we do both sing."

What training do you do between matches. I don't want to appear rude, but neither of you look like you adhere to a strict fitness regimen?

Brian: "Well Andy, you're not the first say that The Nasty Boys' bodies don't look like (those of) Sting or Hulk Hogan but they don't have to. The Nasty Boys have street-smarts and as far as wrestling-shape goes, we are in the greatest shapes of our lives, whether it looks it or not. And remember, don't judge a book by its cover."

What are your hobbies and interests when you're not wrestling?

Brian: "Big Macs"
Jerry: "Whoppers"



I've heard that The Pit Stop has been declared a lethal weapon. Is that true?

Jerry: "That could very easily be because we often go days on end without showering. So you can bet our pits don't smell too glamorous.

Well that's all there is to it! Send your questions to:

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And remember, be creative!

LOOKING BACK WITH GORDON SOLIE

"HANDSOME" HARLEY RACE

WCW has a lot of young fans and I'm very happy to have the opportunity to fill in some of the missing facts in WCW's long history. That's why I'm so proud to look back on the career of one of the greatest wrestlers ever. He is a man that I consider one of the elite; "Handsome" Harley Race.

Today most of the younger WCW fans know him only as a manager, most recently handling Vader. Race took the huge 450-pounder all the way to the WCW World Championship. However, there is much more to this man than just guiding others to greatness. Harley Race achieved virtually all there was to accomplish in this sport during a career than spanned over five decades.

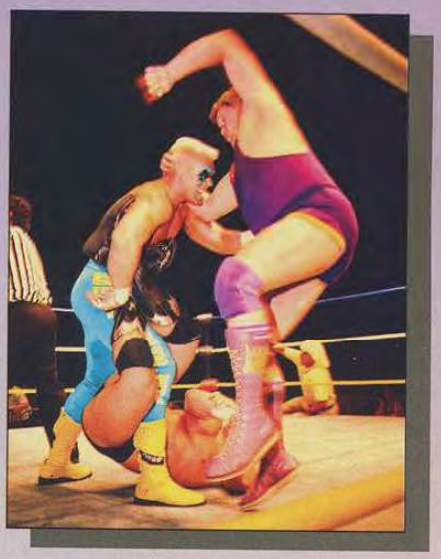
Race held the NWA World Championship seven times, which was then the all-time record. The great Lou Thesz was the previous record-holder. Race also held seven Missouri State Championships and three AWA Tag Team titles and huge victories over virtually every star who ever graced the sport.

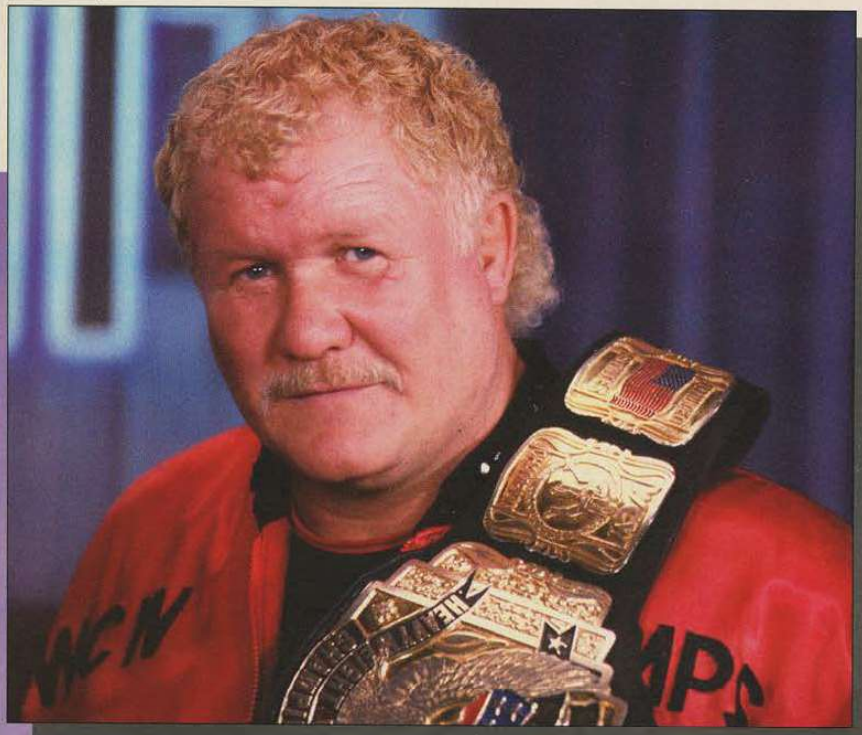
These phenomenal achievements came from a man who, when he was 18 years old, was told that he would never be able to wrestle again! Race was in a serious car and train wreck at that point in his life. He was hospitalized for a long time and had steel pins placed in both his arms and legs. The doctors were grim about Race's future prospects. They said he'd never walk but he did. They said he'd never wrestle again but he was shortly back in the ring. They said he'd never be able to go all the way to the World title. Those doctors didn't know Harley Race very well. In all my years of calling matches, I've never seen a man of such intensity, desire and passion for victory. The man is simply absolute determination in human form.

Why was Race able to compete from the late 1950's all the way through matches during 1994? I believe it had all to do with **HIS** sheer determination and will to excel. I'm not sure how well Harley did during his rookie year but from what I'm told, his won-lost record wasn't all that impressive. In fact, Harley never made it above mid-card status during those trying times. However, Race is a proud man. He must succeed at everything he does and to not go all the way just won't suffice. The other thing that's so amazing about Race is that he's totally fearless. I don't even think he understands what the word means. Everything that he goes after, he's hell-bent for leather. The man just doesn't understand how to go into second-gear. If Harley wanted to be a race car driver or a pro boxer, I have no doubt he would have been a champion as well in those fields.

Race was the master of so many holds it was hard to count them all. In his later years, he used the cradle suplex as his finisher. That was a maneuver that was originally done by Ed "Strangler" Lewis. Most fans also remember Race's battering ram, the dangerous maneuver where he'd come flying off the ropes with his headbutts. Several states tried to ban that maneuver because of its high potential for injury. The same goes for his piledriver and, during the '60s and '70s, Harley had one of the best. That move was banned in Florida for a long time because of Race. This was a man who thought nothing of applying that dangerous maneuver on a young wrestler and ending his career.

When I think of Harley Race, my mind usually drifts back to the first time he won the World title by defeating the great Dory Funk Jr. Race was jubilant about his victory





Gordon Solie, "The Dean of Professional Wrestling", is the co-host of the WCW Pro Wrestling program every Saturday morning on Superstation TBS.

but he was only able to hold the championship for less than a month. The fact that he was then known as the shortest reigning NWA Champion really ate at him. Again, came all the naysayers: "Race will never regain the title." Well, Race did indeed win the title again and in the process became the answer to a trivia question. He's the only NWA Champion to defeat the only pair of brothers who held that title (Dory and Terry Funk).

In his own unique way, Race also had an intense loyalty to wrestling fans. Sure, most people who liked wrestling didn't like Harley and that's because his methods could be cruel and his tactics were just short of brutal. However, even if you didn't like his style, you never saw Harley Race in a bad match. Even when he was injured, Race would find a way to get to the ring and engage in combat. Harley once told me, "Hey, the fans paid their money to see me wrestle. They're always going to get their money's worth when I'm in a match."

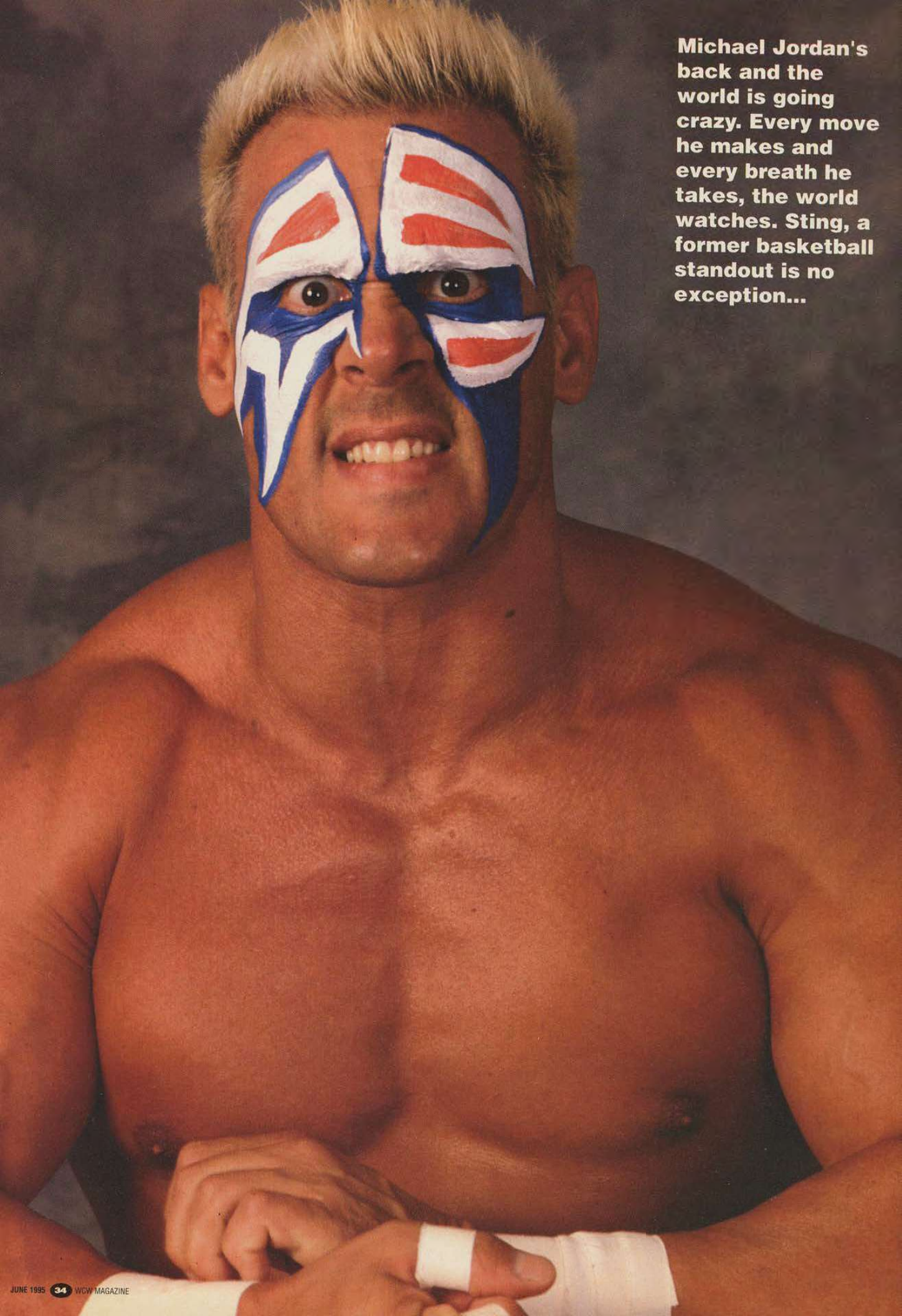
This WCW Hall Of Famer was a wrestler's wrestler. He was so well-rounded. He could brawl but he was as smooth as silk scientifically. If you want to take a cheap shot at him, he could out-cheap shot you all day long. If you wanted to get down on the mat and wrestle, he could match you hold for hold and he could counter virtually all of them. He was also very intelligent. If a wrestler who had a reputation for a particular skill came to town, Race would try to exploit it. For example, when Race wrestled Ric Flair, he'd try to injure Flair's leg early in the match so that the "Nature Boy" couldn't put him in a figure-four leglock.

Race studied films and videos of his opponents like no other wrestler I've ever seen. Preparation was always important to him. I believe that Race's dedication and intelligence carried on to his career as a manager. His very first protege was Lex Luger. Even though Luger had tried and failed on countless occasions to win the WCW title, it took the tutelage of Race to make Lex a champion. Later, he did the same for Vader. Results speak for themselves and it's obvious that Race is a manager of champions. He knows talent when he sees it and he knows how to make raw ability translate into victories.

There were so many great Harley Race matches that it's hard to keep track of them all. His classic battle was against Flair in the first Starrcade in 1983. He also had classics against former NWA Champion Jack Brisco and bloody brawls with wildman Terry Funk. However, my personal favorite was a battle Harley engaged in against Flair in St. Petersburg, Florida back in 1982. Believe it or not the match lasted more than 30 minutes and in the end, it was Race who earned a hard-fought countout victory.

Race's legacy will surely be felt in this sport for years to come. He's already made his mark as one of the sport's greatest managers. However, did you know that he has a son who is already an accomplished amateur wrestler? Perhaps someday we'll see Harley escort his own flesh and blood to the ring and the name of Harley Race will be known for decades to come. In any event, despite his tough tactics, Race surely qualifies as a legend.

It was a privilege to be able to call so many of his greatest moments. They also qualify as some of mine!



Michael Jordan's back and the world is going crazy. Every move he makes and every breath he takes, the world watches. Sting, a former basketball standout is no exception...

IN THE HOTSEAT

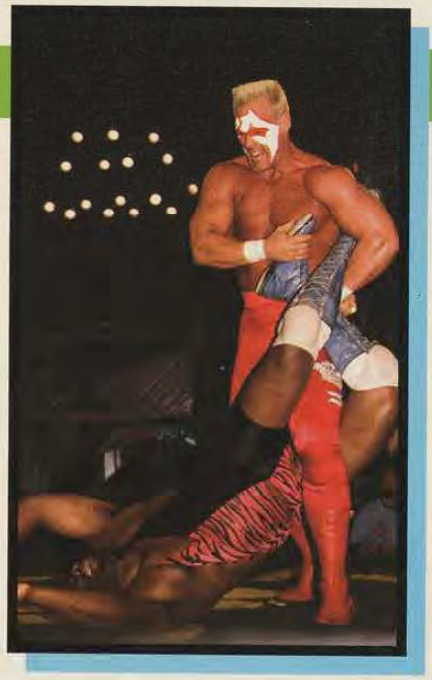
STING

You see, on a junior college basketball court in Southern California some 10-plus years ago, the slam-dunking Stinger sported shorts and a tank-top and carried his club to back-to-back state titles. He was just like Jordan, although he idolized Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

This was Sting's first brush with greatness, his first brush with championship glory, his first brush with celebrity status and while he refused numerous offers from Division 1 schools, it certainly wasn't Sting's final shot at fame.

Instead, it was nothing compared to what he has accomplished in World Championship Wrestling. This popular, blonde-haired brawler from Venice Beach, Calif. has held every WCW title (U.S., TV and World) except the tag-team straps. He is a heart-throb for fans and a heartache for foes.

"Yes, in some respects, it sure seems like I've been here for eight years (in WCW), especially after a big Pay-Per-View or a big Clash (of the Champions) match. For about a week after those matches, I walk in pain," said Sting, during a relaxed



moment at WCW's corporate headquarters inside the CNN Center.

"To this day, I can still remember my first match. My heart was pounding, my hands were sweating and I had huge butterflies. It was the same feeling before my first 'big' match, against Ric Flair in 1988, at the very first Clash of the Champions in Greensboro, N.C."

"Boy, things have changed dramatically since that day – for me and WCW. I remember when we used to only have one or two hours (of programming) per week on TV; one hour on SuperStation TBS and one hour on syndication and that was it. Then we had the Great American Bash, the Bash tour, then Pay-Per-Views and then Clash of the Champions. Now we have 900 numbers, dolls, videos, worldwide tours and on, and on, and on. "WCW is huge. It's just like any other major sport."

Sting is, without a doubt a franchise player even if (as of press time) he doesn't have the gold around his waist. Airports offer the best proof of that – despite wearing a baseball hat and sunglasses, Sting cannot walk through freely without autograph-seeking fans approaching.

"It's nice to be liked; that's great but I don't think of myself as the ultimate nice guy. You've seen me kick, punch, scratch, bite, swing a chair, throw a table ... I've done it all during my career," Sting said. "I'm never going to start a fight like that and I'm certainly not trying to promote that kind of wrestling but, if someone like Vader or Flair does the same to me...well, then it's open season."

Nowadays, Sting has his sights focused on Big Bubba, the bad boy bodyguard who bested the Stinger at WCW Uncensored in Tupelo, MS.

"I'm not going to make excuses ... he just won. And that's going to happen at times in everyone's career," said Sting, who plans to gain revenge on Big Bubba at Slamboree (May 21 in St. Petersburg, FL.).

"...I just want another chance to be WCW World Champion."

"I had a little twist on my knee (at Uncensored) and he took advantage of it early on in the match. When I went to pick him up later, my leg gave out. He fell on top of me and got the pin. That's all there was...Oh well! But there's always tomorrow!"

Sting's "tomorrows" will include summertime tours of Germany and Austria and possibly more tag-team matches, probably with Hulk Hogan, "Macho Man" Randy Savage and Johnny B. Badd, among others.

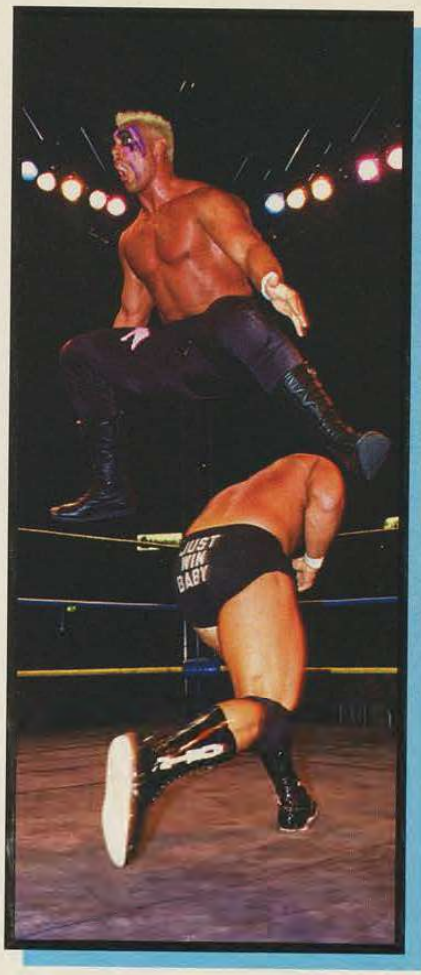
"Plus," Sting adds, I definitely plan a title-chase by the end of the year. I don't care who is wearing the belt at that time, I just want another chance to be the WCW World Champion. I am sure that if Hulk is still the Champion he will grant my wish."

No doubt, his path certainly will cross again with long-time nemesis, Ric Flair.

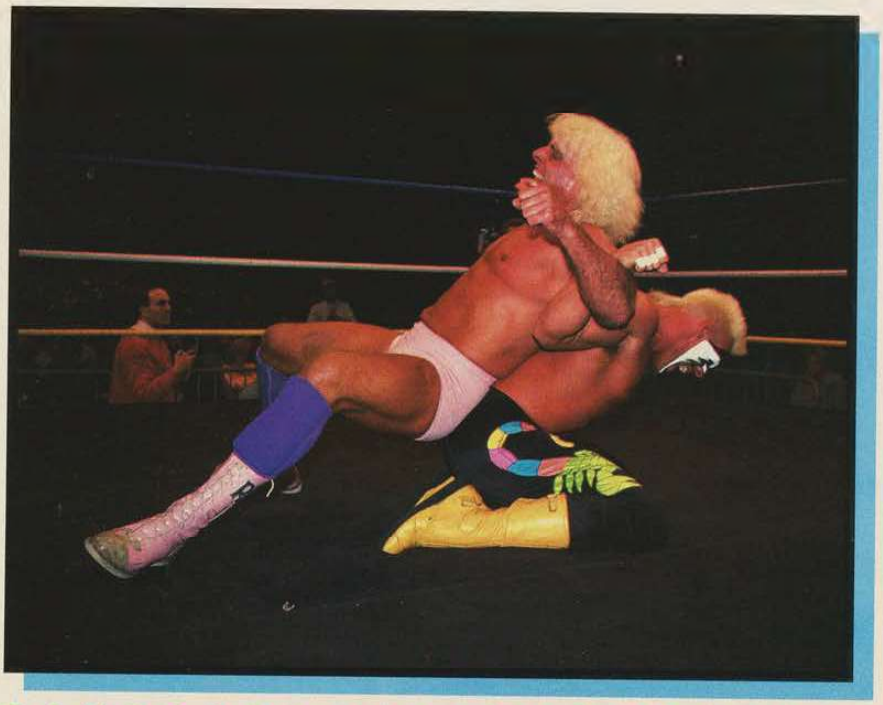
"You can never say never with Ric Flair," Sting said. "Sure, Flair said he was going to retire (if he lost to Hogan at Halloween Havoc, and he did lose), but wrestling is in his blood. He can not stay away. I have always admired Ric Flair, back to the days when I watched him wrestle Ronnie Garvin, Dusty Rhodes and so many other greats. I have a lot of respect for Ric and I think it's mutual."

The same goes for Hulk Hogan, Sting's buddy inside and out of ring. The two are often spotted riding their Harley Davidson's along the Pacific Coast Highway in Southern California.

"If there's one guy who I know I can always trust, it's Hulk Hogan," said Sting, who's been stabbed in the back by former allies as much as anyone in WCW. "I have a constant hunger for winning and, when someone turns on me, it just makes the challenge that much greater. I can fully appreciate everything Hulk had to go through with his betrayal by Butcher. I suffered the same way when my closest friend, a man I regarded as my brother, Lex Luger turned on me."

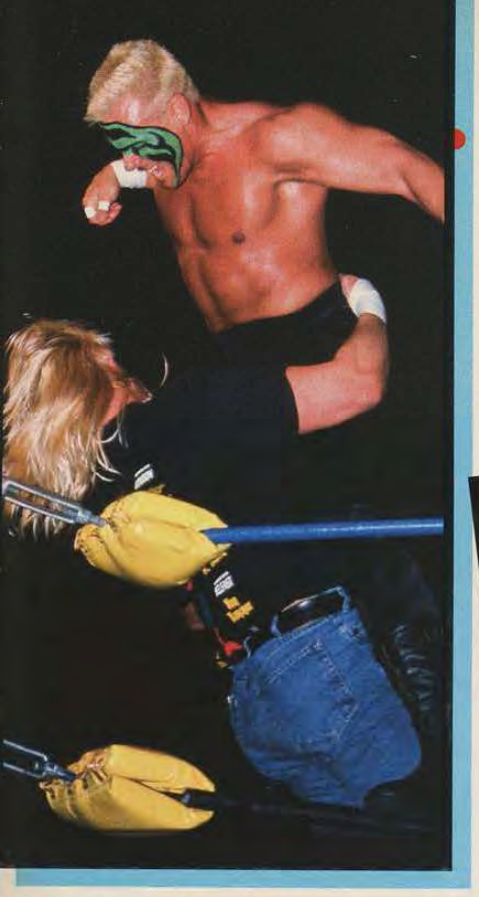


The Sting-Hogan bond carries over to the hit show "**Thunder in Paradise**," where, believe it or not, the two are, as Sting said with a friendly smile, "arch-rivals." Sting portrayed Hammerhead in four episodes last year.



"Acting was a new challenge, something I really enjoy."

"Appearing in "**Thunder in Paradise**" was one of the most enjoyable experiences I have ever had away from wrestling. It was just so much fun...you're not just a human superball, like when you're in the wrestling ring," Sting said. "Acting was a new challenge, something I really enjoy. Everyone working on Paradise was upbeat and everyone was trying to make things work. Plus you're in Florida, so how bad could it be?"



Sting had to become a certified scuba diver for the show and he plans to use the skill down the line. "If I ever had the opportunity, I'd love to go somewhere like the Cayman Islands and go scuba diving."

Sports are Sting's life. He is a fan of The Atlanta Braves and The San Francisco 49ers. He is also fanatical about health and fitness and owns a pair of very successful health clubs in Atlanta: Main Event Fitness.

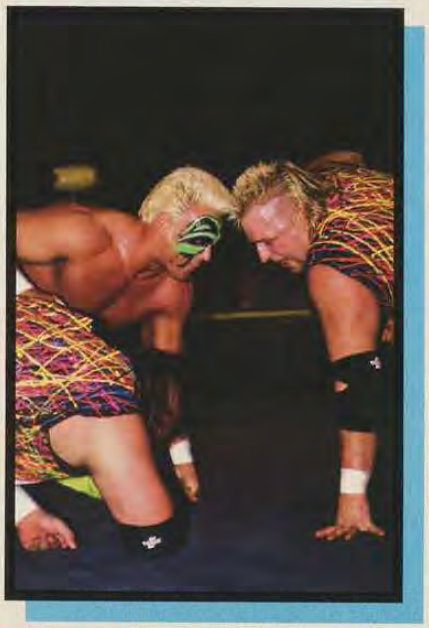
"It seems as though I'm a wanted man, whether I have a belt or not."

"Things are going great for the Stinger these days; I certainly can't complain," he said. "There have been quite a lot of wrestlers coming in (to WCW) from the WWF and it seems as though most of them want to challenge me right off the bat. Maybe that's because a lot of people view me as the WCW Measuring Stick. I don't know, perhaps that's true. It seems as though I'm a wanted man, whether I have a belt or not. One of the best things about WCW now is that we have a lot of new, fresh talent such as "Das Wunderkind" Alex Wright, competing right alongside the greatest veteran talent ever in this sport, (such as the "Macho Man.") The atmosphere nowadays in the packed arenas is just so electric."

Those fans are turning up to see WCW, but especially Sting.

So, Sting, why do you paint your face?

"It all started when I first got into wrestling," he said. "I was part of a tag-team with the Ultimate Warrior and it was just something we did *a la* (musician) Alice Cooper. We started out like that to get some attention from promoters and fans – and it worked. Ultimately, we split up...he went his way and I went mine. I decided to keep the face paint and, on the advise of Dusty Rhodes, I started adding colors. Today, it's just part of my personality in the ring. I still do the painting myself. It takes up to 30-minutes, depending on how intricate I get."



As is customary with In The Hotseat interviews, Sting offers his opinions on WCW personalities:

ARN ANDERSON
"He's just a straight-forward, down-to-business brawler, like a bar-room brawler. Arn is just an old-school wrestler

KEVIN SULLIVAN
"He's the devil."

FLYIN' BRIAN
"The best drop-kicks I've ever seen. Pound for pound, he's one of the toughest wrestlers."

HARLEM HEAT
"I think they'll go down in history as the greatest tag-team of the 1990's."

LORD STEVEN REGAL
"He needs to utilize the muscles around his face that cause a smile, instead of a 24-hour-a-day frown."

STUNNING STEVE AUSTIN
"Very fast ... very technical."

NASTY BOYS
"I had the chance to travel with the Boys on our last tour of Germany (in December). I was sandwiched between (Brian) Knobs and (Jerry) Sags the whole time and believe it or not, I had a blast. It was a load of fun."

VADER
"Arguably the best super-heavyweight in the history of wrestling."

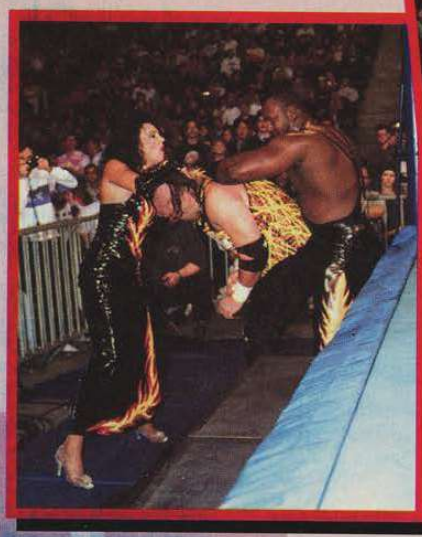
MARCUS ALEXANDER BAGWELL
"He's come a long, long way here. He's one of the young lions in WCW."

JOHNNY B. BADD
"He's someone who has been around for a while, but someone who hasn't been given his due. While he already is a great star. I think once he's given the opportunity, he will be a great superstar."

RIC FLAIR
"He is one of the greatest wrestlers of all time, no doubt about it. He lives the life."

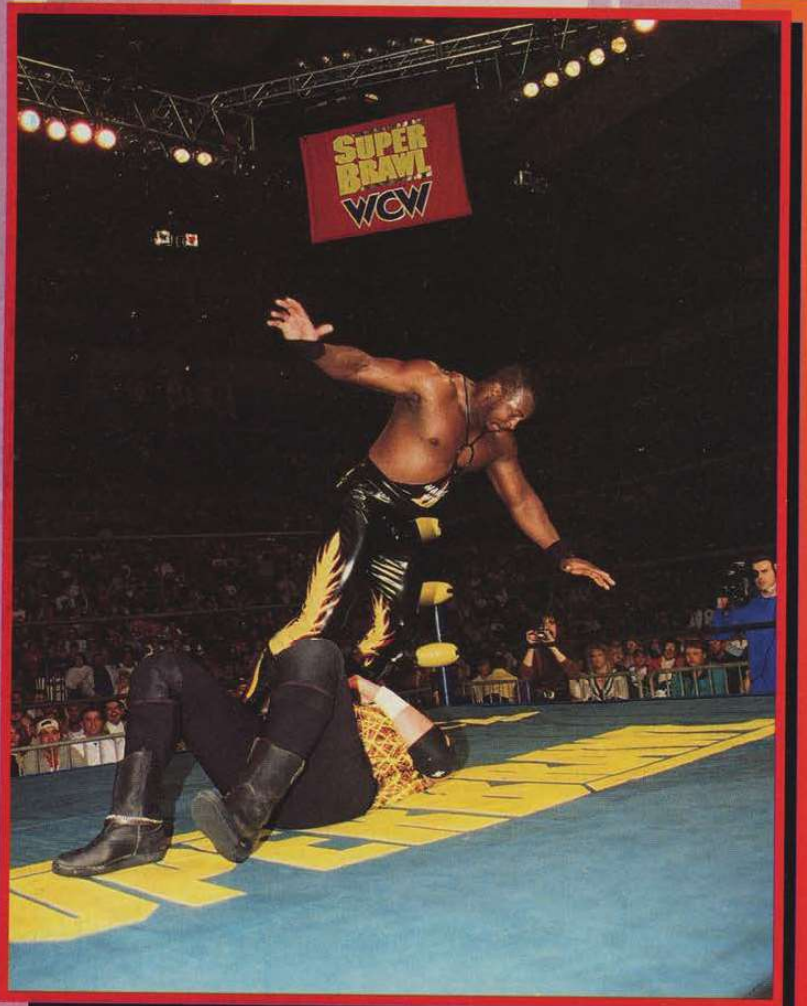
BOBBY "THE BRAIN" HEENAN
"Although he never has a lot of nice things to say about people, myself included, he's one of the greatest broadcasters in the history of this sport along with "Mean" Gene Okerlund. Bobby is very entertaining, particularly because I don't take anything he says too seriously."

MENG
"Scary."



Firmly established as WCW World Tag Team Champions, Harlem Heat seem to improve with every single match. Sister Sherri has them primed and now Stevie Ray and Booker T want to be known as one of the greatest duos ever in WCW!

ARE HARLEM HEAT TOO HOT TO HANDLE?



New York, New York...it's a heck of a town. Just think, this East Coast city has produced incredible Broadway shows, world champions in baseball, basketball, football and hockey, expensive and lush restaurants and...Harlem Heat. Booker T and Stevie Ray are proud to hail from Harlem, one of the Big Apple's most vital areas. They're even more proud to be the reigning WCW World Tag Team Champions.

"We don't even know any other real wrestlers from New York," says Stevie Ray, who's as vocal as he is powerful. "We know some teams who say they are from New York, like The Nasty Boys, but we've never seen them in our 'hood. New York is a big town–10 million people–and we are the best from there. Harlem Heat will never duck a challenge from anyone. The best competition and the best wrestlers are right here in WCW and Harlem Heat are on top of the pile, no question!"

With each passing match, it's getting harder to dispute Stevie Ray's claim. It is becoming obvious that since debuting in WCW, Booker T and Stevie Ray have progressed from being a very good tag team to perhaps a great one. This brother tag

team uses power like many other teams such as the Nasties, but few big men are able to move about the ring with the kind of grace as that of the Heat. Indeed, both men are masters of powerful karate-derived kicks that have spelled victory on dozens of occasions.

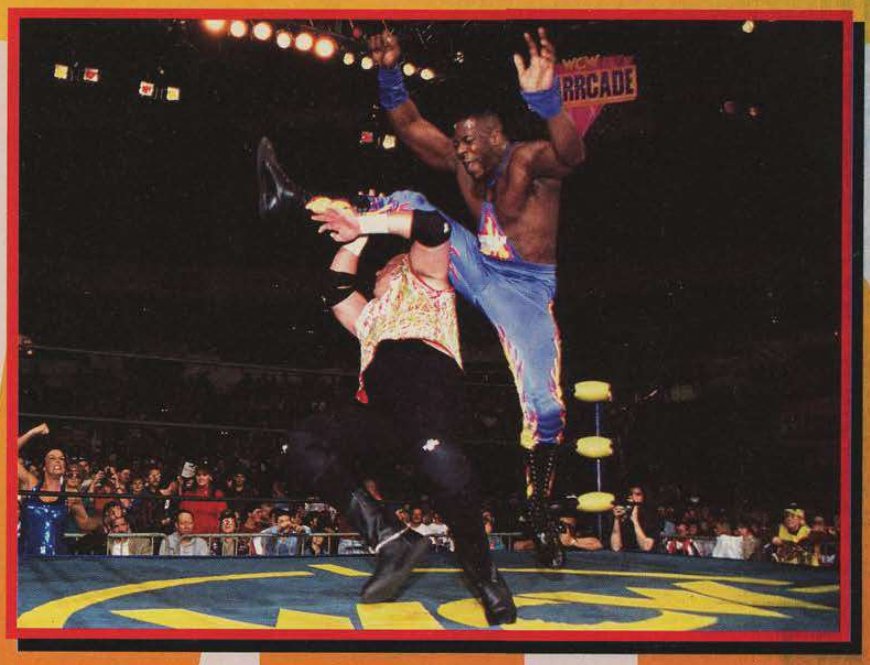
Obviously, there is more to Harlem Heat than just their skill. Many experts believe that it was when they brought Sister Sherri into the fold as their manager it added a touch of devious cunning to what previously was a straight-forward, battling team. What led Booker T and Stevie to choose this woman to become their leader over other better established WCW managers?

"Can't you see for yourself?" said an incredulous Stevie Ray, who at the moment was eyeballing Sherri's obvious physical attributes. "There are other reasons why we chose her, though. She can handle the people in the WCW front office. The white collars, the Bockwinkels, the upper echelon in the South Tower. We knew Sherri had the track record to get that done. Secondly, just look at her! To us, she's our undercover agent, but to all the other chumps she's a midnight fantasy. All you fools out there reading this, make sure you don't drool over any pictures of her on these pages. We are the most cohesive unit in pro wrestling, no... in EVERY sport today."

Given their record in recent months, the Heat have been backing up all their bold claims. They've taken on The Nasty Boys, Stars & Stripes and many other fine teams. Their victory over Stars & Stripes for the title was marred by interference by Sherri. The fiery manager seems to have a long-standing grudge against Marcus Bagwell and The Patriot.

"It's only a matter of time until we get rid of them," says Sherri, her eyes gleaming with anger. "You've got the little boy with his spiky hair, not even out of puberty. You've got that oversize chimpanzee who is probably so ugly that he has to wear that mask. What does that tell you? Good-looking men like my team are proud to show their faces and physiques, The Patriot's downfall will be the vanity that forces him to wear that mask."

"They've had enough title shots," said Booker T. "I think there are more deserving teams that should



get championship matches before Stars & Stripes. Teams like Frankie Lancaster and Mark Starr, Todd Morton and Barry Houston, guys like that."

Booker T can rattle off the names of all the preliminary teams he wants but he also realizes that the tag team competition in WCW is getting hotter than ever. In addition to the Nasties and Stars & Stripes, Sting and Randy Savage have formed a fine tandem as have Savage and Hogan. The Blue Bloods are rocketing higher up in the ratings with each day. Sherri has her men pumped up to such an extent that Booker T and Stevie Ray already think they're the greatest WCW World Tag Team Champions in history, far superior to any of the teams that preceded them.

How about Doom, a team of which the Heat are often compared? "Doom could not beat Harlem Heat on our worst day," griped Stevie Ray. "If the fans compare us to them it just shows that the fans are fools!"

Rick and Scott Steiner? "They were good, but they've spent so long without any real competition we don't see how they can possibly be a threat. They should just stay in Japan, safe and sound, leaving their fans with happy memories," said Booker T. "If they come down 110th Street, they're gonna get beat up just like everybody else."

Arn Anderson and Larry Zbyszko? "What have they got to do with anything," spat Sherri. "One's an old has-been who has to announce for his supper. We've had enough of this...any team you can mention including The Road Warriors, Williams and Gordy or you can even go back to Bockwinkel and Stevens, the answer remains the same...all these teams were great for their era. This, however, is the 1990's and Harlem Heat are the team for now, the future and forever!"

Clearly, this is a team that's very confident and ready for anything WCW can dish out. However, they should note that the Nasties still want another crack at them, so they can't count Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags out yet–especially the way they nearly suffocated Sherri with their "Pitty City" maneuver at WCW Uncensored.

"We want you guys in the worst way," said Sags on a recent edition of WCW Pro Wrestling. "Harlem Heat is gonna get a first-class trip to Nastyville and, while they're there, they'll be Nasticized!"

The brawls between these two teams have been fantastic to watch, but the Heat insists there's more to their style than just punches and kicks. Sherri dismisses the Nasty style as "one-dimensional."

"We are not brawlers," insists Stevie Ray. "We are wrestlers."

"My men are equally the best," said the ever-so-proud Sherri. "There is a lot more to come. They are potential greatness."

Greatness is a word that should not be thrown around lightly. Harlem Heat claims to possess it and they've got the WCW World Tag Team Championship belts around their waists to prove it.

Is anyone out there man enough to prove them wrong?

In the USA or Canada, write to:
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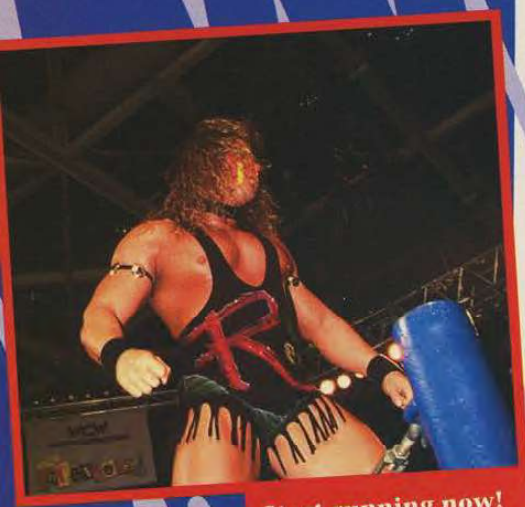
WCW Magazine,
One CNN Center,
Box No.105366, Atlanta,
GA30348-5366

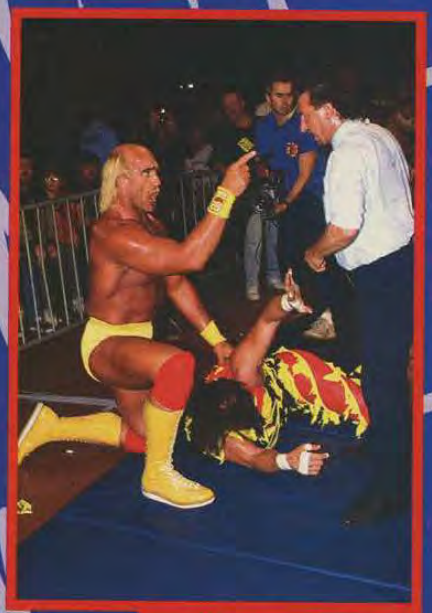
In the UK or Ireland, write to:
Brain Reaction,
WCW Magazine,
5A Brighton House,
9 Brighton Terrace,
London SW9 8DJ

BRAIN REACTION

Hello, humanoids, this is The Brain and, while I adore every moment I spend talking to you (Not!), I have limited time this month ...the limo is getting waxed as we speak, then I'm off to the yacht for some fun in the sun. Boy, I sure hope the Dom is chilled!



Start running now!



WCW's referees are the pits

Anyway, to the WCW matters at hand...RIC FLAIR IN A DRESS WEARING MAKE-UP! I honestly don't know what to say; This could be a first. Ric and I are buds, long-time pals but even I am a little confused and concerned. If I hadn't stepped into the ring before Uncensored I dread to think what could have happened to that dim-wit Dave Sullivan. Flair even snapped at me the other day. Personally, I think it's just a plan...one that will hit Hulk Hogan so hard that the few strands of hair he still has will stand on end. Regardless, Ric, you know I'm always behind you, especially if it'll end Hulkamania, after all, Sting's been wearing make-up for years and nobody thinks that's odd.

I've said it before and I'll say it again...will someone please put an end to Hulkamania! I am so sick and tired of seeing the pompous, prima donna prance around...gosh, I want to smack him myself right now. In fact, that's just what I'm going to do. Oh, wait! I can't...I almost forgot that I'm a broadcast journalist.

Who is this face painted goon called Renegade. The only thing I know for certain is that he is well named. He's soon going to be a renegade from WCW trying to escape the wrath of Flair and Vader.

Hulk and "Macho Man" Randy Savage vs.Slick Ric and Vader at Slamboree...Wow, what a main event! I give the Monster Maniacs two chances of winning: Slim and none. Also that night in St. Pete, I hear I'm being inducted into the WCW Hall of Fame. My acceptance speech has been ready for years - I've just been waiting for this glorious moment to try it out.

Everyone laughed at me when I said that Big Bubba was championship material now that he's dropped that useless weight of the Guardian Angels. Well now that he fairly–I'll repeat, fairly–pinned Sting at Uncensored, I think I've finally silenced a lot of you idiots. Well, I guess that's best anyway. Big Bubba has a nasty disposition and it'll carry him far.

Speaking of Nasty, those fat morons Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags make Beavis and Butthead look like a pair of brain surgeons.

Col. Parker and I went to lunch on April 1st and I picked up the check (no foolin'). Anyway, he tells me the Stud Stable is getting ready to expand and you're not going to believe who is the newcomer. It's ... oh, sorry, I promised the Colonel that I wouldn't tell.

I was at Douglas International Airport in Charlotte the other day and this 90-year old lady came running up to me...OK, so he was only 25, but he looked like a 90-year old granny. Anyway, he asked me to autograph a basketball that said, "The Greatest." Naturally I obliged Larry Johnson, for my usual $100 fee but am still curious why he snickered when he turned away.

I've never been a big fan of Alex Wright, but I figured, hey, maybe he'd have some redeeming qualities if I got to know him better. So, I recently went to his locker room and saw he was playing the game

Monopoly against himself and losing! Talk about a total zero...this kid has no friends in the ring or out.

That's enough for now. Let's hit the mailbag AND the stupid mail man who keeps delivering your drivel.

Dear Sir,

I personally think that Vader and Stunning Steve are the best wrestlers in WCW. I've never seen a wrestler with as much power as Vader and there is no doubt that Stunning Steve is the best scientific wrestler in the world. My friends think I am crazy; what do you think?

J. William, Sketty

"Yes, you are crazy...now what's the point?"

Dear Bobby,

How did you get to be so funny? You are hilarious. Whenever you broadcast, you always amuse me.

Jim Synck, Milton, MA

"How do I amuse you? Tell me! Am I funny?"

Dear So-Called Brain,

I think you are a pathetic old loser. You would be better suited for a job flipping burgers at Burger King.

Jenny Lanier, Winston-Salem, N.C.

"Listen here, toots, I've done more in this sport than your idol Hulk Hogan ever will do. I am a world renowned broadcast journalist a la Tom Brokaw, so just sit back in your rented Lazy-Boy and savor that lukewarm beer...and shut up!!

Dear Bobby,

Why is it illegal to throw your opponent over the top rope and what do you think of this rule?

D. Medic, Staten Island, N.Y.

"Yes it's illegal, but only if you get caught. If you share one brain cell like the Nasty Boys you'll get caught and suffer the consequences."

Dear Bobby,

After watching SuperBrawl and Uncensored, I think the standard of refereeing in WCW is at an all-time low. I think they need to be reviewed right away.

C.V. Doerink, Hollywood, CA

"You're correct, 100 percent. WCW officials, particularly "Reject" Randy Anderson and "Nerdy" Nick Patrick, are the pits. And so, I'm volunteering my services, free of charge, for revamping WCW's referee system. I will personally assign referees for each and every match. Sure, I could charge hundreds of thousands of dollars for this service but it's my duty and obligation to help when needed. Thank you very much.

Dear Brain,

Sting used to be the No. 1 contender for all the titles in WCW. Now he never seems to get a shot. What do you think has gone wrong with his career?

J. Grossman, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"First off, look at the company he keeps. His two best friends, and perhaps his only, are Hulk Hogan and "Macho Man"Randy Savage. That should tell you something. Next, he needs to learn some of wrestling's finer points; kicking, biting and eye-gouging."

Dear Bobby,

I like your column more than Tony Schiavone's. When Tony or Gene come on to my television I hit the mute button and only put it back on when you are on the air.

Scott Stevens, Calumet City, IL

"I never knew there was any intelligent life in Illinois but I guess I'll have to review that thought. As for Tony & Gene, your lucky you've got a mute button."

Brain,

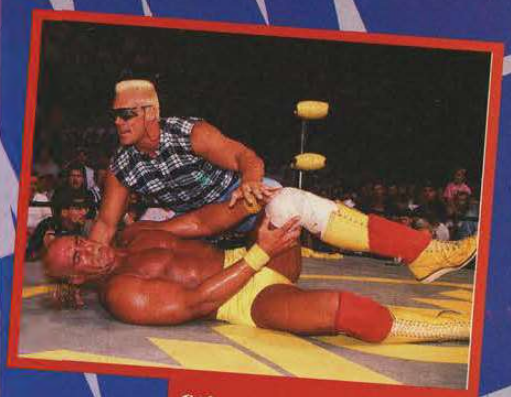
Have any of the wrestlers you have managed ever spoken down to you the way Hogan does to Jimmy Hart.

Tom, Kingsley, PA

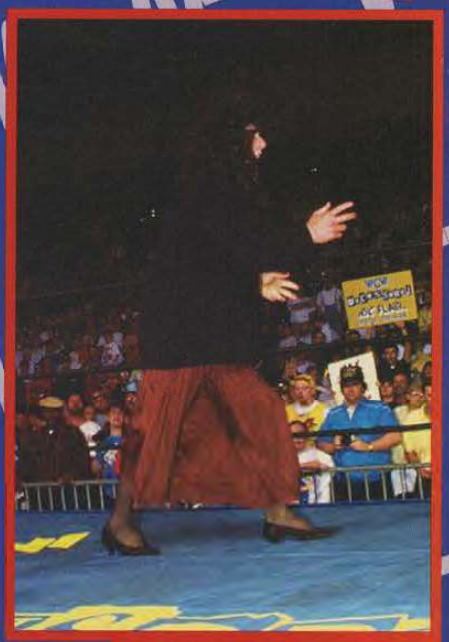
"They would only do it once. I'd slap them so hard they'd think Notre Dame's bells were permanently ringing in their head."

OK, enough's enough, I may see you peasants again next month.

Sincerely yours
The Brain



Sting needs a different set of friends



Flair in a dress...I'm sure it's just a plan

Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of the WCW Main Event and WCW Saturday Night programs on Superstation TBS. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts.

Editor's Note:
The opinions expressed throughout this column are those of Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. The publishers of WCW magazine take no responsibility for the comments and apologize for any offense given.

COLLISION

BUTCHER VS K

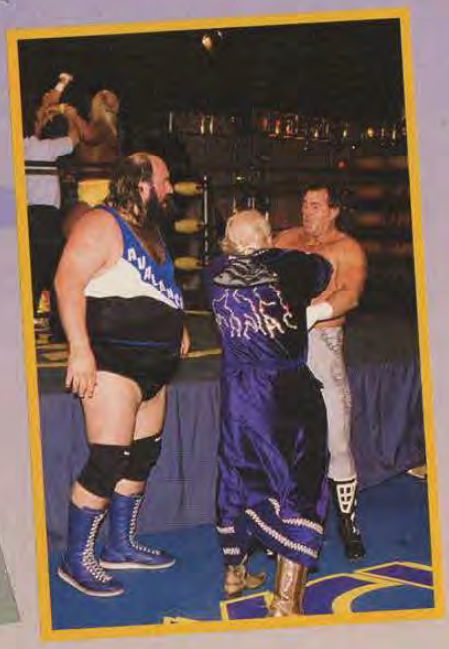
Make no mistake! These days, Butcher is a man who stands alone. He's alienated his former best friends, Hulk Hogan and Jimmy Hart. He's estranged from his most recent cronies, Kevin Sullivan and Avalanche. It's hard not to feel compassion for a man who's made so many errors.

"I'm just a hard, tough kind of guy," said Butcher as he contemplated his future in WCW. "I've always been able to take care of myself. It isn't going to be a problem for me to take care of anyone else, let alone Kevin Sullivan."

Conversely, Sullivan isn't the kind of guy who worries too much about who are his friends. He simply hates the entire world and everyone in it. Therefore, when Butcher and Sullivan had a bitter parting of the ways, it delighted this maniac more than it saddened him.

"I don't have disdain for Butcher," Sullivan said matter-of-factly. "I actually feel sorry for Butcher. You see, he believed in that dream called Hulkamania. He believed in the fallacy that if you say your prayers, take your vitamins and train hard, everything is going to be all right. Butcher's actual mistake was that he never actually let go of that dream. Now, when I see Butcher, I am going to make sure that he realizes that life isn't a dream and he's going to suffer a living nightmare at my hands!"

Sullivan is the kind of man who makes nightmare's part of his every waking moment. For years, he's instigated and been involved in some of the most violent feuds in the history of the sport. Every top wrestler from Dusty Rhodes to Cactus Jack has had to come to terms with this twisted maniac. Now, he's



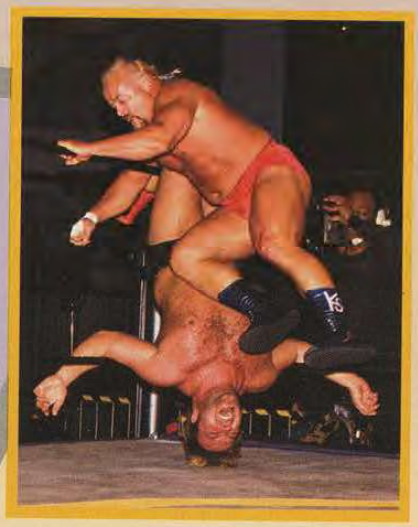
set his jaundiced eye on Butcher for reasons that still aren't clear.

The rift between Sullivan and Butcher actually began during the classic SuperBrawl V event in Baltimore. Kevin defeated his brother, Dave Sullivan, by ramming him into Butcher, who was standing on the apron just prior to the pin. However, Dave butted heads with Butcher and Butcher could hardly make it back to the locker room under his own power. The fans in Baltimore were worried that Butcher had reinjured his head, which contains several steel plates and screws. The ringside physician claimed that Butcher came just short of receiving a serious concussion but Sullivan couldn't have cared less. He walked back to the locker rooms alone leaving Butcher writhing on the arena floor in sheer pain.

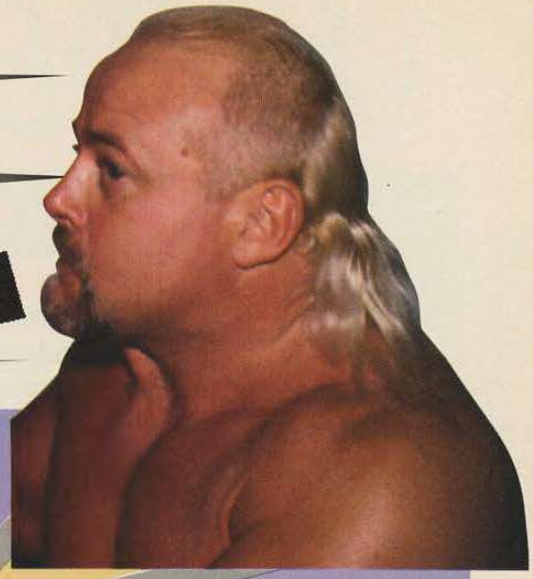
Next, a mix-up in a tag team match led to a loss for Butcher and Sullivan, and Sullivan went ballistic. He brutalized the Butcher and left him laying despite the best efforts of Avalanche to split them up. The fans were shocked but most of them seem to be siding with Butcher.

Neither of these men is going out of his way to court the fans at this point, but WCW's astute fans realize that an unleashed, unstable Sullivan is a man who likes nothing better than to retire his foes. Those same fans also know that Butcher suffered a life threatening head and face injury in a para-sailing accident several years ago. Butcher doesn't seem to be worried.

"It's true, it was an awful injury," recalled Butcher. "However, my head is pretty strong now. I know Sullivan



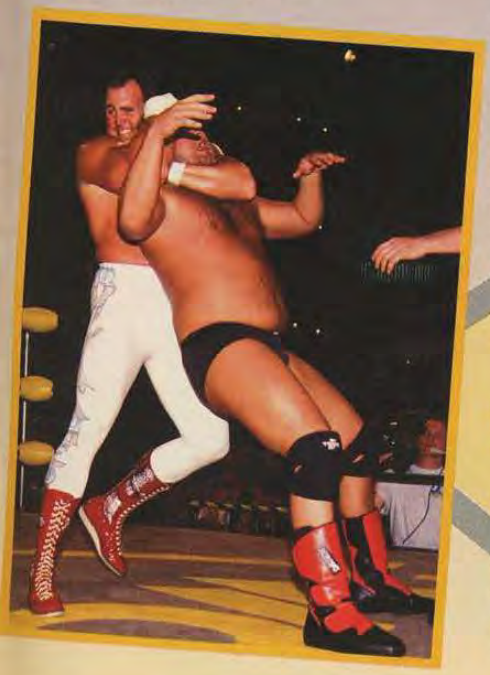
COURSE



EVIN SULLIVAN

very well and I can anticipate his every move. I'm always aware of the injury and I'll be more aware of it in the future."

When these two superstars lock up, you can expect one thing: endless brawling. Even in his days as a fan favorite, Butcher was known as a man with fast hands and an incredible knee to the back finishing maneuver which produced hundreds of victories. Sullivan, however, uses his strong and powerful legs to batter and break his foes. How many men have the stomach muscles to get up after Sullivan stomps straight down on them with both feet? Also, believe it or not, Sullivan still uses the scientific acumen that he learned as a rookie in the 1970s.



However, wrestling ability will have little to do with who wins or loses this feud. This battle is about betrayal, raw nerves and frustrated ambition. It's just the kind of anarchy that makes Sullivan's day!

"Winning this feud will be just like stabbing Hulk Hogan straight through the heart," says Sullivan gleefully, who believes Butcher's ties to the World Champion are still strong. "Hogan is just like me, you see. He's a compassionate man. He is a man who cares, and I care too. I care that Butcher gets down on his knees and kisses my feet like the slime he is and I care that it will destroy the fabric of Hulk Hogan's heart and the myth that is Hulkamania!"

As for Butcher, he claims he's made no attempt at restoring his wounded friendship with Hogan.

"I have no thoughts on that at the present time," said Butcher somberly.

"It is possible, though, that our friendship could be repaired. We've been through a lot together... traveled a lot of miles...a lot of matches. If Hulk has it in his heart to forgive me,well, you just never know..."

Butcher isn't going to have time to be calling Hogan right now. He's got to fend off the crazed Sullivan and possibly Avalanche as well. The Three Faces Of Fear are history. So is Butcher's past. He's got to focus on Sullivan, one of the sport's most dangerous men, or he could have no future at all. Sullivan lives to retire wrestlers but even severe head injuries couldn't prevent Butcher from his goals and ambitions.

Let's see how severe Sullivan can get. He's already alienated Butcher. Will he annihilate him next, forcing him to pay the ultimate price for destroying Sullivan's beloved Three Faces of Fear before they could take control of WCW?"

EXPERT HUL

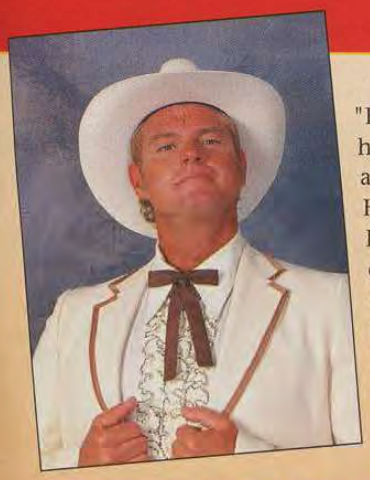
ASSESSMENT

In this exclusive WCW Magazine feature, four of World Championship Wrestling's most knowledgeable personalities take an up-close-and-personal look at current WCW Superstars.
These aren't comments you'll hear at the arenas or on TV-these are the true beliefs of the biggest and most provocative mindsets in the sport today!

HULK HOGAN

Height: 6' 7"
Weight: 275lbs
Birthday: August 11th
Hometown: Venice Beach, CA
Signature Manuever: Legdrop
WCW Titles Held: WCW World Heavyweight Champion: Beat Ric Flair in July 1994

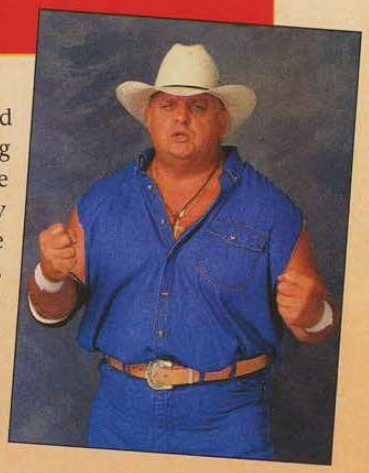
K HOGAN



"Has any wrestler in history had as much written and said about him as Hulk Hogan? I should say not! He's accomplished virtually everything that a man can do in this sport, but he HASN'T done everything, as far as I can see. Has he defeated Meng, my perfect fighting machine? Could he beat Bunkhouse Buck or "Dirty" Dick Slater? How about Arn Anderson? My TV Champion says Hogan doesn't have the guts to challenge him and I think that's a correct assessment. Hogan can't do much unless he's got Jimmy Hart, Sting, Renegade, and "Macho Man" Randy Savage backing him up. You call that a World Heavyweight Champion? You might, but I don't."

Colonel Robert Parker

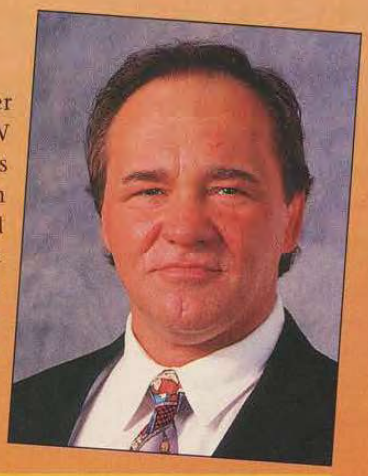
Col. Robert Parker is the self-proclaimed greatest showman in the world. He has several top WCW wrestlers under his guidance, most notably the infamous Stud Stable.



"Let me repeat something I said recently on WCW Pro Wrestling to my good friend Gordon Solie and that supposed legend, Larry Zbyszko: Hogan Hogan was the icon of wrestling in the '80s and '90s. Every era has one. I think you could say that the "American Dream" was once an icon back in my wrestling prime and you had other great stars in the olden days. In every sport, there is a man with the drive, determination and desire to go to the top each and every time. In WCW today, that man is Hulk Hogan. He is the World Heavyweight Champion. He's always in tip-top fighting shape and he lives up to the word Champion every time he sets foot in the ring."

Dusty Rhodes

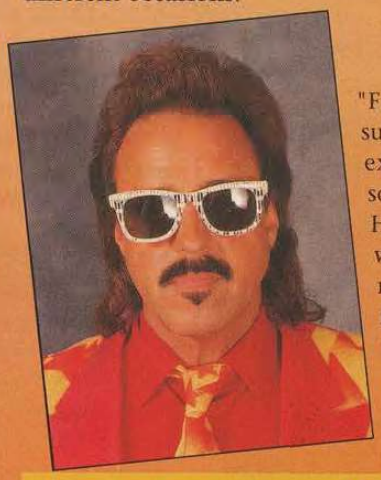
Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream", is one of the most popular wrestlers of all time. During his incredible career he has managed to win the NWA World Heavyweight Championship on three different occasions.



"I have to admit that ever since Hogan entered WCW last year, all he's done is win the big ones. He's taken on Ric Flair and managed to beat him in a retirement match. He's taken on Vader and managed to ward off that monster in his quest to regain the WCW World title. Everywhere you go, every time you pick up a newspaper or a magazine or turn on the television, Hogan is there. It's an incredible thing but Hogan shouldn't his press clippings too much. Want to know why? I can think of a few good reasons: Vader, Flair, Avalanche, Arn Anderson and Big Bubba. Need some more?"

Larry Zbyszko

"Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko is regarded as one of the greatest wrestlers in history. He is currently the co-host of WCW Pro on Superstation TBS.



"Finally you picked a subject on which I am an expert. Let me tell you some things about Hulk Hogan. He's a great wrestler. He's a great man. He's also a great friend. This is a man who picked me up when I was down and made me the greatest manager in the history of wrestling. How can I say that? That's because I manage the greatest wrestler on the earth today. It's like I said at the end of WCW Uncensored: "HULK HOGAN, CHAMPION FOREVER!" I really believe that. I've never seen Hulk faster, quicker, leaner, meaner, or better. He's the man to beat in WCW, and I don't care who challenges him. There's only one Hulk Hogan and there will never be another, baby!"

Jimmy Hart

Jimmy Hart is arguably the greatest manager in the history of the sport. Currently he manages the WCW World Heavyweight Champion Hulk Hogan.

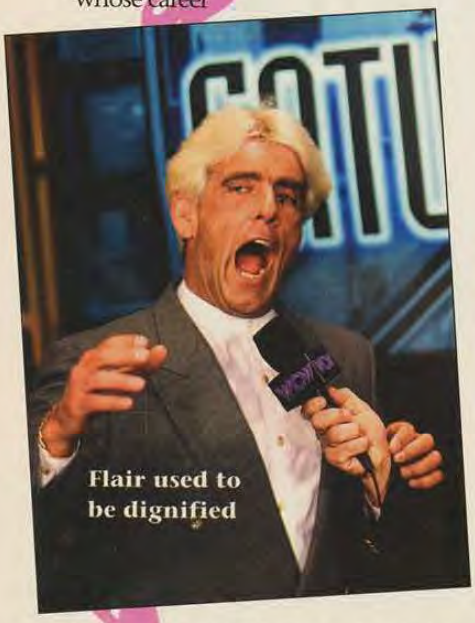
HOTLINE

MIKE TENAY

Unfortunately at press time Mean Gene Okerlund was unable to provide his column for this issue due to the fact that he had to undergo surgery. We are happy to report that the operation was a success and we look forward to welcoming him back shortly. Get well soon Gene.

Mark Madden, my colleague both on the pages of WCW Magazine and on the WCW Hotline, is obsessed with Ric Flair to a point beyond fanaticism. I have to wonder if this obsession has possibly blurred his vision to the realities of WCW in 1995.

Ric Flair's tangible achievements, such as the record number of World Championship reigns he accomplished, can never be challenged. The intangibles, such as his influence on other wrestlers and fans alike, are obvious. Flair's true impact on WCW will never be accurately measured. However, as we reach the mid-way point in this decade, I'm curious if the "Nature Boy's" comeback from retirement will be viewed like Michael Jordan's auspicious return to the NBA's Chicago Bulls, or rather if it will be viewed more like the comeback of Larry Holmes, the former world boxing champion whose career



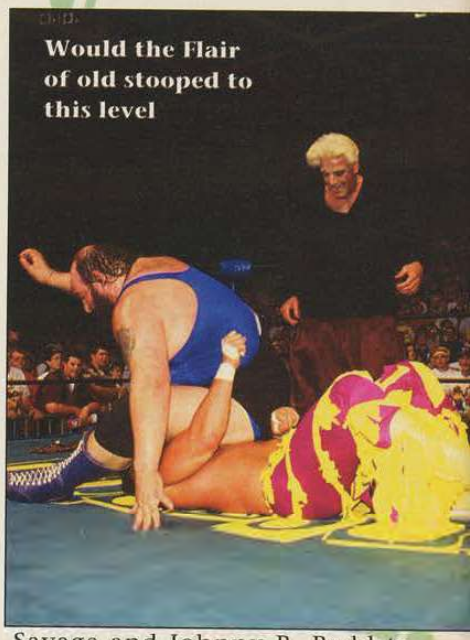
Flair used to be dignified

languishes as he hopes of gaining just one more big Pay-Per-View payday?

It's easy to want to see Flair, easily one of the greatest competitors in history, be part of the sport that he helped make famous once again. Has he lost a step physically? It's hard to take so much time away from the ring and regain the skills that make an athlete great. Even Jordan found that out, in his creaky first few games back. Mike Tyson will surely find that out as well. There are many other examples. I can remember how painful it was watching a sports legend such as Willie Mays playing out the string for the New York Mets as a slow-moving 43-year-old after being so successful for the San Francisco Giants.

There's another aspect to Flair's comeback that Mr. Madden hasn't even taken into account. Have you noticed Flair's actions since assisting Vader as his adviser? "The Man," clearly, is not the same Flair who, even as a rulebreaking champion, could conduct himself with dignity. This Ric Flair is a wild, uncontrollable, frustrated man. Angered beyond sanity by the fact that Hulk Hogan is now wearing the belt that he once proudly dominated, Flair is willing to stoop to any low to injure Hogan and bring disgrace to WCW. The butchery of amiable Dave Sullivan is just the first example of how wanton Flair has become; dressing like a woman to attack Randy Savage at "WCW Uncensored" was another shining example of a man gone overboard. Surely this isn't the Flair that Madden rooted for!

Indeed, Flair has been going more off the deep end with every passing statement and screamed interview? Certainly, Hulk Hogan would do anything in his power to be the man who shuts Flair up for good and he can enlist fine competitors such as Sting, Randy



Would the Flair of old stooped to this level

Savage and Johnny B. Badd to help him get the job done.

The odds against Flair becoming a force in WCW once again are almost overwhelming. Already, Flair came within inches of being suspended from the federation for life by WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel. Now that he's allowed to wrestle, there's little doubt that he'll be willing to bend the rules in callous fashion if it damages Hogan and his comrades. Also, what if Flair's skills as a competitor have indeed eroded? Will men such as Vader, Sting and Savage be afforded opportunities for the World Championship and will Flair is relegated to the second string?

Until we have the answers to those questions, I'll remain quite skeptical about Flair's return. Mr. Madden admits he shed a tear when Flair lost at Halloween Havoc '94. It seems he expects Flair to enjoy yet another reign as Champion.

Allow us to monitor this comeback closely before returning the king to this throne!

Mike Tenay hosts the WCW Hotline updates every Monday and Thursday

BUZZ

MARK MADDEN

It was a Saturday night ritual in Pittsburgh when I was growing up; tune into WIIC-TV and Studio Wrestling. At my home it was no option, my grandmother made it mandatory. My attraction to wrestling did not end there and indeed bordered on obsession. I had to see more and, in my junior high school years, I scanned the dial looking for other shows. High among the UHF frequencies -this was in pre-cable days in my neighborhood- I found Mid-Atlantic Wrestling, emanating from the Carolinas. In doing so I found...WHOOOO!..."Nature Boy" Ric Flair and my view of wrestling was changed forever.

He was just too much of an athlete, too complete a performer to not take seriously. He was just so cool to not like. I mean, a playboy egomaniac who backed up every irresistible word he said. How could you not like him? Flair was almost always the bad guy but I cheered him anyway. I still do.

That was back in the mid-1970's. There were a lot of sporting heroes available to a Pittsburgh kid, Superbowl champions, World Series winners...mine was Ric Flair. He justified my faith. He won versions of wrestling's World Championships 13 times. He became wrestling's greatest all-round performer. Not only did he possess unparalleled wrestling ability but his interviews are widely regarded as the standard by which everyone else is judged. Even today he still reigns unchallenged behind the microphone.

Flair's excellence helped spawn a culture of hardcore fans, people who like what they want, not what they are told. People who admire athletic brilliance for what it is in this particular field. Numbered among this group are: NFL fullback Brad Muster, who wears a Ric Flair T-shirt under his game jersey; NBA star Charles Barkley, who did a promotional interview on behalf of Flair and former US President George Bush, who once had Flair accompany him on the campaign trail.

Ric Flair became our King.

Then he retired...now he is back.

As he managed Vader, as he donned a dress to attack Randy Savage at WCW Uncensored, as he did a 911 job on Dave Sullivan during WCW Saturday Night, as he perpetrated the heinous acts that forced Hulk Hogan to demand he come back, Flair's fans contented themselves by reflecting on videotapes featuring his long and glorious career. My personal favorites are:

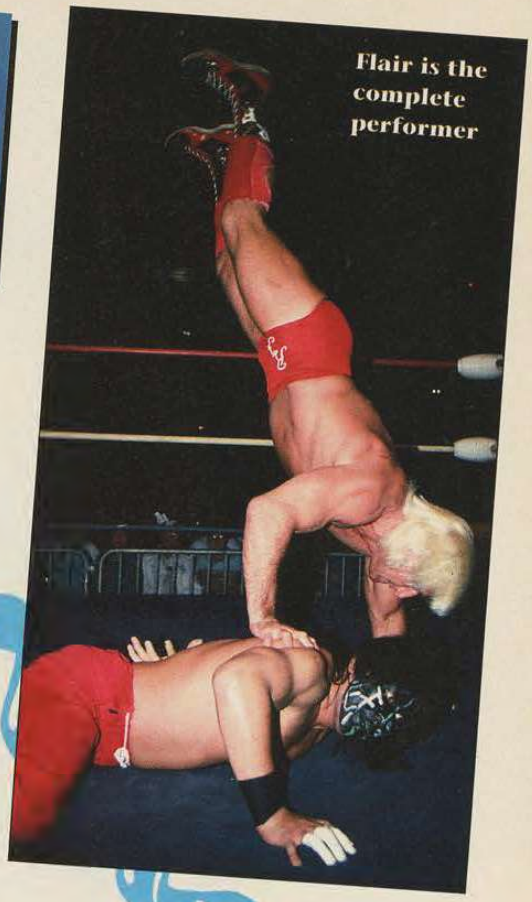
CHI-TOWN RUMBLE 1989 Vs. Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat. Flair loses the NWA title in a bout now considered the classic American wrestling match of all time.

ROYAL RUMBLE 1992 - Flair wins the vacant WWF title in a 30-man free-for-all. In this event, he wrestles for a full 60 minutes. This performance is still that promotion's record time and nobody has come close to beating it since.

STARRCADE '93 - Flair wins his 13th version of the World title, beating the mammoth 450-lb Vader for the WCW belt in his hometown Charlotte, NC. This is a rare opportunity to see Flair as a fan favorite.

I saw the last two matches in person. I was also present when Flair beat Sting for the WCW title at the Meadowlands in New Jersey in 1991. I was there when he beat Randy Savage to win his second WWF title in 1992 as well.

I was there, with a tear in my eye, when he lost the retirement match to Hulk Hogan at Halloween Havoc last year and I'll be there when he properly comes back. When he wrestles again in singles competition, if he hasn't already, I'll hopefully be there to see him win title number 14.

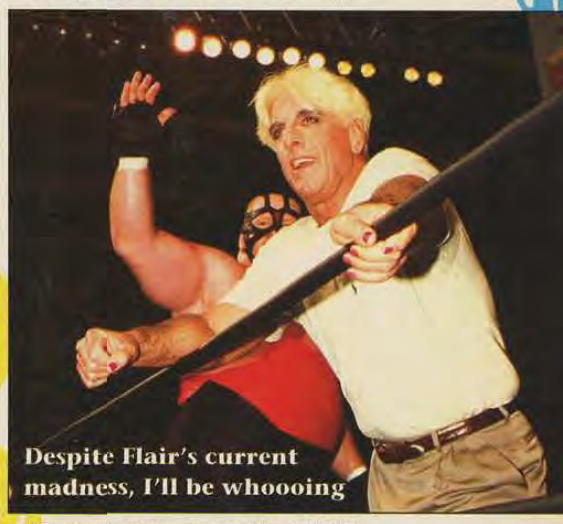


Flair is the complete performer

My spine still tingles when I hear the opening notes of "Thus Spake Zarathustra" filling an arena. The next time I hear it I won't be booing...I'll be WHOOING!

Applaud Hulk Hogan? Blasphemy. Root for Randy Savage? Forget it. Support Sting? Absolutely not.

You see, I'm too tall, too tan, too rich and too much man to cheer for anyone else. Well, actually, I'm none of the above but watching Ric Flair always makes me feel that way.



Despite Flair's current madness, I'll be whoooing

Mark Madden hosts the WCW Hotline updates on a Wednesday and Friday

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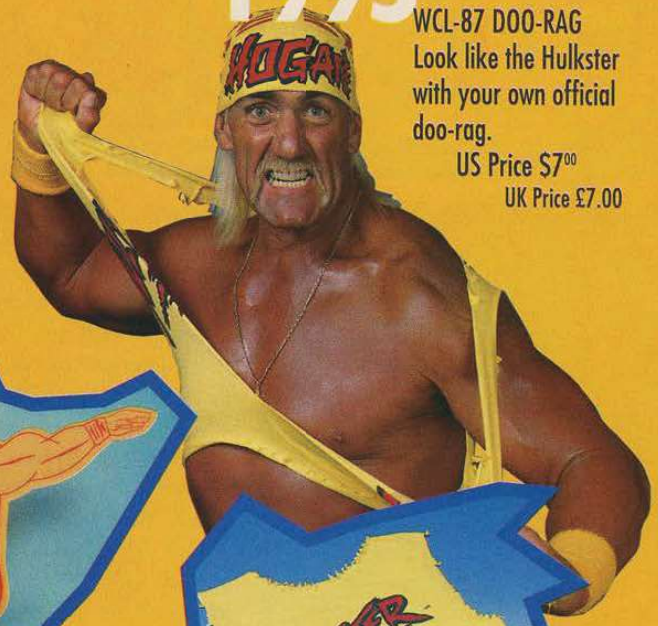

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NEW STING/SCORPION T-SHIRT
You'll be proud to wear our new Sting/Scorpion pattern T-shirt. Front and Back design.
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NEW!

WCL-111 "MACHO MAN" RANDY SAVAGE HAT
"OOOH YEAH!" You just gotta have "Macho Man's" official hat.
US Price $10.00 UK Price £10.50

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Get Nasty like Sags and Knobs. Front and back design. One size fits all (XL).
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NEW!

NEW OFFICIAL WCW POLO SHIRT
Here's the all new official WCW cotton picque polo shirt with embroidered logo (royal blue with jade trim).
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WCL-102 STARS & STRIPES MASK
Join the Stars & Stripes team with your own official mask.
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WCL-120 VADER MASK
Order our new official Vader mask and show all your friends "Who's the Man!"
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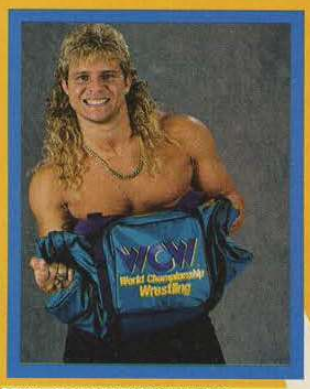

WCL-09 WCW TOTE BAG
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Pump it up!
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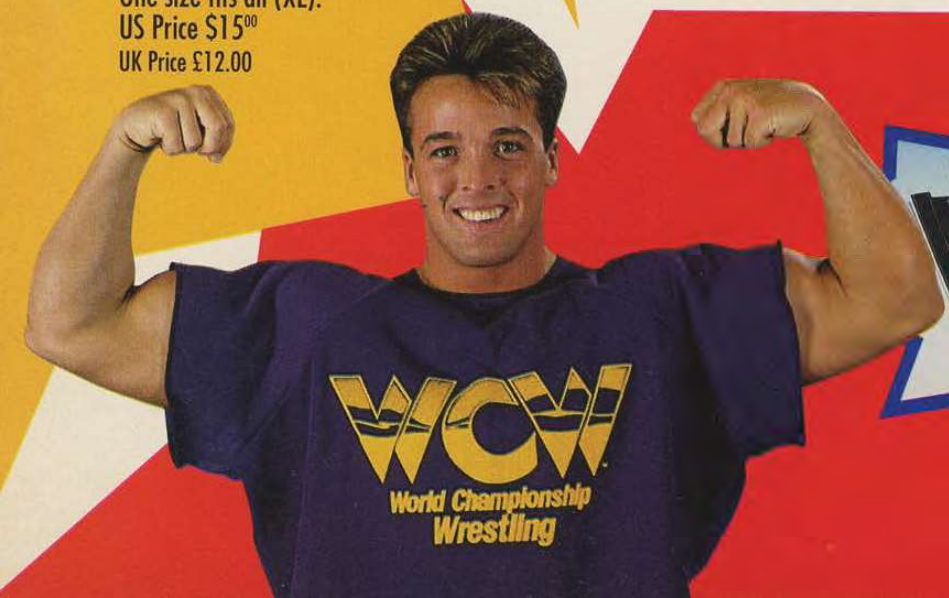

WCL-83 WCW FAN PACK
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	(See chart) Shipping & Handling			
			TOTAL	$

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Name on Credit Card
Signature *Issue No:*

Send order form to:

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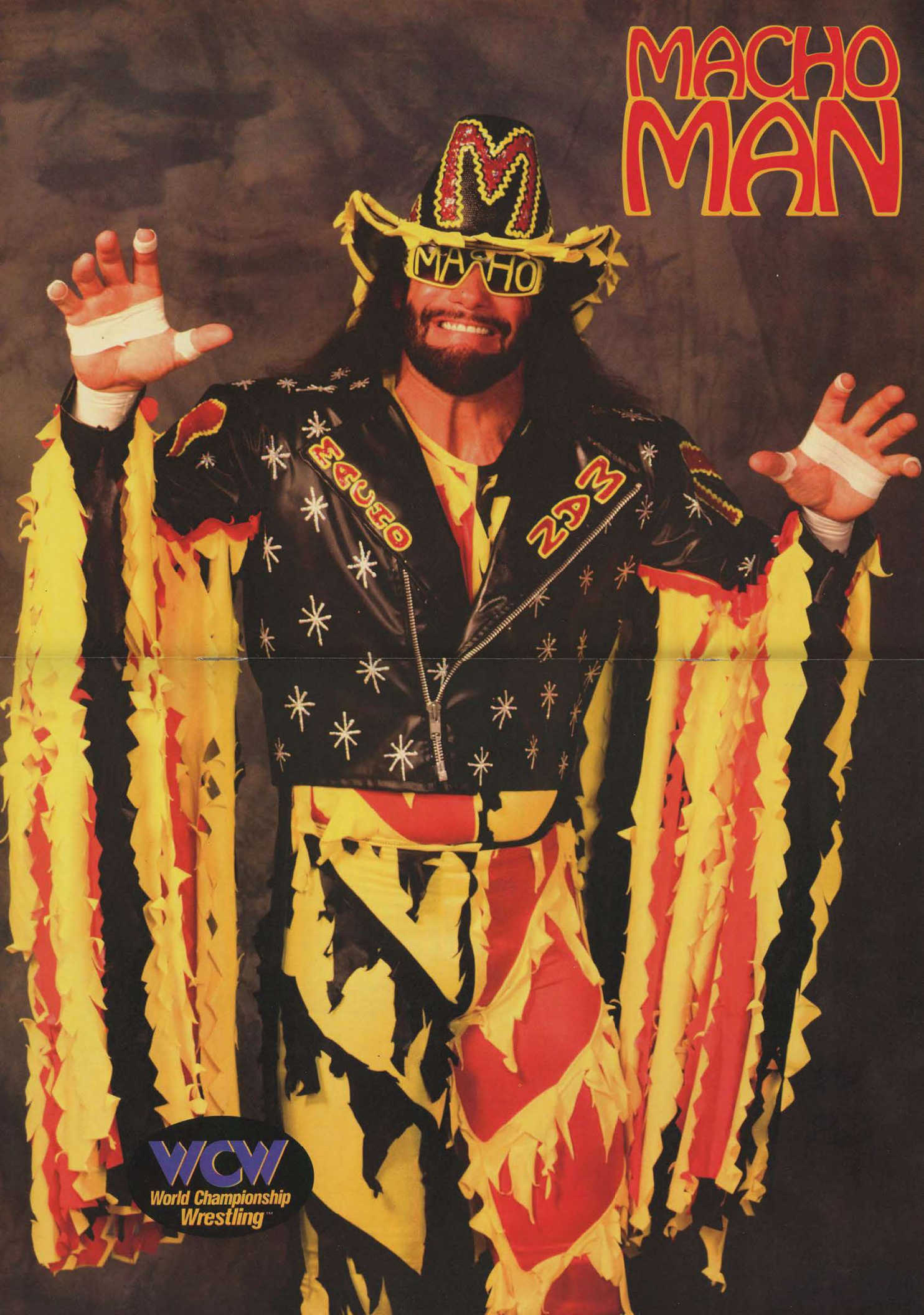
UK FAX ORDER 01622 631041

MACHO MAN



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